

Hafa Adai!

NJSDA, ITS names national teams
to represent CNMI. » **PAGE 7**

Vanuatu president: Storm-wrecked
country must 'start anew' » **PAGE 9**

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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75¢

Bavi spares Rota

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tropical Storm Bavi weakened as it moved farther west from the CNMI yesterday. Aside from a barrage of fallen trees, it spared Rota from major damage when the storm's center made its closest approach to the Northern Marianas.

Saipan, Tinian, and Rota were busy yesterday morning clearing up uprooted trees, branches, and other debris.

As of yesterday afternoon, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has already restored electric power to 80 percent of Saipan. Departing and arriving flights

also resumed.

Public and private schools are going to resume normal operations today, Tuesday.

As of 8pm yesterday, Tropical Storm Bavi's center was 415 miles west of Rota, 385 miles west of Guam, 450

See BAVI on Page 4



Saipan Mayor's Office's crews take several hours yesterday to cut up a huge rubber tree that was blocking the entire lane of Hagoi Road corner Texas Road in Chalan Kanoa. Tropical Storm Bavi brought strong winds and rains, toppling many trees in the CNMI.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Gonzales steps down from library post

» **Naputi to serve
in acting capacity**

By **JAYSON CAMACHO**
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Joeten Kiyu Public Library executive director John Oliver Gonzales has stepped down from his post after turning in his resignation letter yesterday, according to JKPL Library board chair Mark Rabauliman.

This comes almost a month after JKPL staff walked out on Gonzales on Feb. 18,

See GONZALES on Page 4



Gonzales

Tang: Fund to be pay-as-you-go by 2019

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Reiterating her report last year, Settlement Fund trustee Joyce C.H. Tang says the Fund is expected to become a pay-as-you-go entity by the year 2019.

By that time, the retirement income of all beneficiaries will be entirely dependent on the CNMI government's contributions, said Tang in her report filed in federal court on Friday.

See TANG on Page 4



Tang

INSIDE



LOCAL

BonnieGio Sagana and Mica Ella Sune top the CNMI Voice Festival Season 1.

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ASIA

China has overtaken Germany to become the world's third-biggest arms exporter.

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LIFE & STYLE

With cremations on the rise, urn artists look for the beauty in death.

» **PAGE 19**



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Local

AMID NEW HURDLES BY GIAA FOR SELF-ACCESS

Star Marianas suspends passenger charters to Guam

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Star Marianas has suspended all passenger charters to Guam since last week Monday due to a “continued lack of a facility” to operate and self-handle their aircraft, as well as a new ground-handling terms introduced by the Guam International Airport Authority that they find “not applicable” to their size of operations.

GIAA now requires Star Marianas and their ground-handling crew to enter into an IATA Ground Handling Agreement but this, according to Star Marianas president Shaun Christian, would drive the cost of escorting passengers to “nearly dou-

ble” from the current \$40 per passenger they were paying out.

In an interview, he explained that the requirement would include things like an interline baggage agreement that would add additional insurance requirements that “ordinarily would not be there.”

He also said Unlimited Services Group, which does ground handling for Star Marianas, would have to meet the aircraft with a minimum of four people, for their eight passenger Navajo chieftain aircraft. This basically “quadruples” the number of personnel needed to meet their small aircraft, he said.

Before these new requirements, they needed only one

person to marshal the aircraft in and escort passengers, he said.

When asked why GIAA issued the sudden IATA requirements, Christian said, “We have no idea.”

He said the last they heard from the Guam airport was during the Feb. 5 meeting, where they were told that they would be given a facility by the end of February. But midway through March, Star Marianas has yet to receive word from GIAA.

Saipan Tribune tried to contact GIAA but no reply could be had as of press time.

Proposed phases

In their last meeting in early February, which was attended

by Rota representatives like Mayor Efraim Atalig and a Guam senator, according to Christian, GIAA had proposed to put “a temporary 40-foot air-conditioned container in front” of a previously proposed cargo building to be renovated for their use.

Phase 1 of the proposed plan was to get the 40-foot container up, so there could be an alternative Guam Customs Access point, he said.

Phase 2 was to remodel the yellow cargo building so they could have a permanent Customs clearance area. And Phase 3 was to open up a passenger check-in area, with a small waiting area for passengers, accord-

ing Christian.

They expected the project to be done by the middle of the year, and according to Rota treasurer Frank Atalig who attended the meeting, the first phase was supposed to be done in three weeks.

“Which they failed to accomplish,” Atalig added.

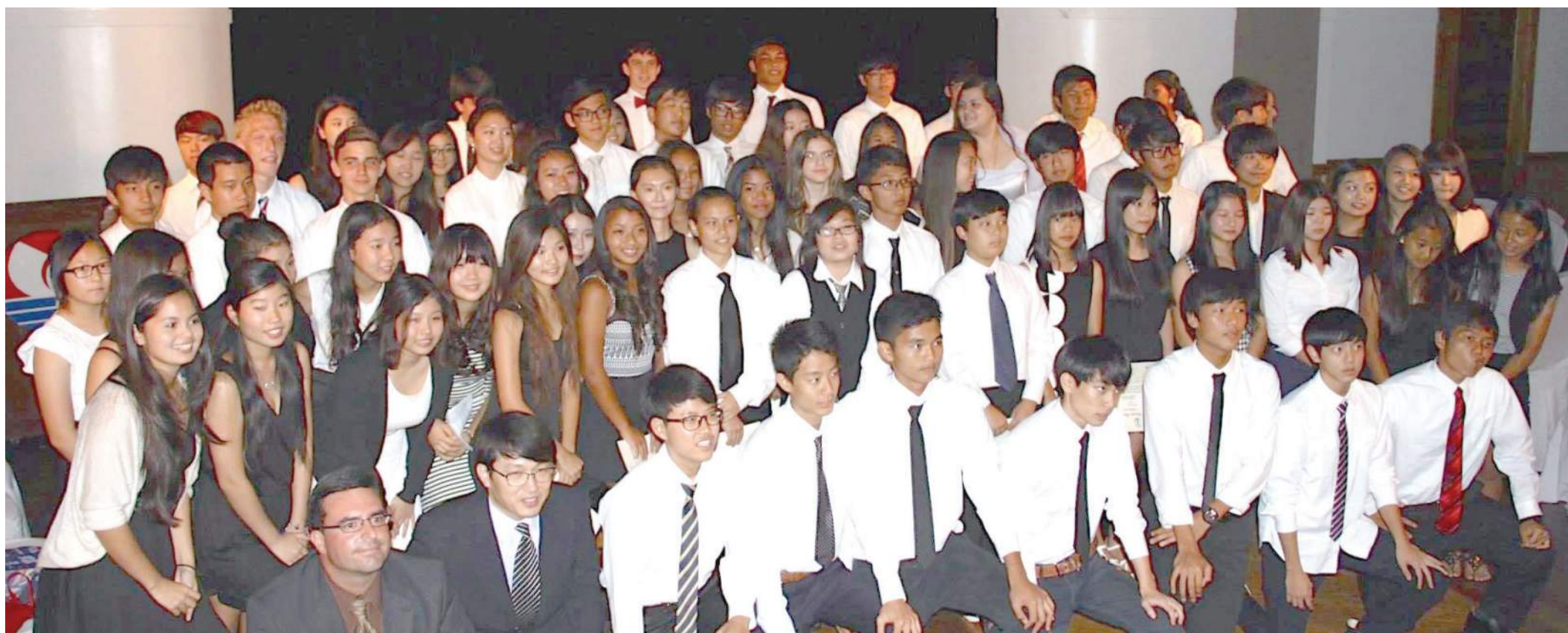
“We all left from that meeting encouraged,” Christian said. “We were hoping we were going to make announcement. But at this point—where we basically have had interference with our passenger escort service—we are suspending passenger charters now.”

Star Marianas have looked into other options for ground handling, he said, but until they

have a “definite” facility they do not want to make any commitments.

One company offered a \$1,500 charge to escort passengers, Christian said, adding that for a charter from Saipan to Guam, Star Marianas charges that same amount.

“Based upon this new development with our passenger escort company, requiring things that shouldn’t be required for us for our size and scope of operation, we have to hold off and see what alternatives we have to continue until such time we get any kind of facility and self-handling—or until there is a ground service that can escort our customers,” he said.



LYDIA TAN

SIS inducts 37 students to honor societies

Saipan International School held its National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society induction ceremony on March 12, 2015, in Charley’s Cabaret at Pacific Islands Club. The National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society are the nation’s premier organizations established to recognize outstanding high school and middle level students.

NHS and NJHS have very stringent membership requirements. To be considered, students must have at least 3.7 GPA and must go through a rigorous selection process. The candidates are evaluated on the basis of character, leadership and service to the school and the community, and a five-member faculty council decides the admission of candidates.

Parents, guests, and teachers assembled at the induction

ceremony to celebrate and welcome new members. Lighting of the white candle marked the beginning of the ceremony. Led by formally dressed NHS and NJHS members, 16 NJHS and 21 NHS inductees entered the theater, received the candles, recited the pledges, and joined the honor societies. SIS headmaster Tim Bray welcomed the guests and spoke briefly about the honor societies, adviser Ingur Lee spoke about the five ideals of the NHS and presented the candidates, and members welcomed the new inductees into the societies by passing the candle lights to them and congratulating them. Warm reception by the members and guests was the focal point of the one-hour program.

For school year 2014-15, Saipan International School added Ami Tsukagoshi, Anthony Zhu, Brian Youn, Che-
noa Bunts-Anderson, Clayton

Izuka, Do Hyeon Kim, Guy Yeon Kim, Hyeong Chang Im, Isabel Heras, Jiye Lim, Jun Bum Huh, Min Seo Kim, Seuong Mock You, Siha Ahn, Ye Dam Huh, and Yeon Soo Park to NJHS and Carter Smith, Cerinn Hwang, Colinn Ramsey, Emily Frink, Jae Hoon Jang, Jeong Woo Kim, Jiwoo Kim, Jun Young Chung, Kaiyeesha Tambakau, Keriann Callaghan, Lu Song, Maureen Doculan, Natalie Hardt, Nicole Huer, Sakura Ima, Shirley Qian, SooAh Sohn, Stephanie Lee, Sung Jun Yoon, Woojinn Bark, and Yuqing Xing to NHS.

To maintain membership, the new members must maintain the high standards and participate in a service project. For this school year, NJHS and NHS members of SIS have adopted a yearlong schoolwide mentoring program to assist elementary and middle school

The newest members of Saipan International School’s National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society have their picture taken after an induction ceremony on March 12, 2015, at Charley’s Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club.



Some of the inductees listen to speakers during the ceremony.

LYDIA TAN

students once or twice a week.

SIS expressed gratitude to its board of directors for mak-

ing this program a success. The members are Dr. John Joyner, May Ling Colombo, Wonja

Park, Kyoung Min Song, Karen Buettner, Paul Plunkett, and Isabelle Hardt. (SIS)

'NMI urgently needs employment, population surveys'

By **JOEL D. PINAROC**
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth still does not have up-to-date surveys, which it will need to move forward and justify its labor needs to the federal government.

Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres said the CNMI does not have current data on employment rates, population density, and demographics, among others.

A summary of his report at a recent meeting in Washington, D.C., showed that the last per-

manent survey data in the Commonwealth includes the unemployment rate, which grew from 3.9 percent in 2000 to 25 percent in 2007.

"There is no official unemployment rate, no up-to-date population data, and no up-to-

date demographic data," Torres said in his report.

A U.S. Census report said the CNMI population as of 2012 stood at 44,582.

But the Commonwealth needs new surveys, Torres said. He is asking the Ameri-

can Community Survey and the U.S. Census Bureau to include the CNMI in future surveys.

Torres cited that local funding to conduct data collection and reporting system that connects education, employment, and other workforce related concerns is nonexistent.

The employment and education data becomes important, considering an anticipated demand for workers with the influx of investors, particularly in the hospitality industry.

The data will also be important as the closure of the CW program nears.

Torres in his report said the CNMI is looking at close to 200 occupations filled by about 14,000 non-U.S. citizens that will need to be filled by U.S. workers following the end of the transition in 2019.

A looming problem is that the total number of unemployed U.S. workers in the CNMI in

2010 amounted to only about 20 percent of the 14,958 foreign workers.

"So even if all the U.S. workers not in the labor force were employed, more than 11,000 jobs would still need to be filled by foreign workers," Torres said.

The official said government's plans include the creation of an "American Jobs Center," a physical one-stop career center to be the hub of training and employment needs.

"Already the virtual center has proven to be useful to our constituents and beneficial toward finding the right person for the job," he said. "And we cannot have a sustainable or long-term workforce development plan without focusing on the next generation of workers."

Retrial of Grandpa Ping begins

The retrial of Jose Ilo Santos, a 63-year-old man accused of sexually abusing a then 7-year-old girl, began yesterday in Superior Court.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho is presiding over the trial. When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom yesterday afternoon, Camacho was still giving instructions to the seven jurors.

Assistant attorney general Shannon Foley is prosecuting the case. Assistant attorney general Emily Cohen is assisting Foley in the trial.

Assistant public defender Michael Sato is counsel for Santos. Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig is assisting Sato for the defense.

The retrial came about after the CNMI Supreme Court reversed Santos' convictions last Dec. 2 and ordered a new jury trial.

The high court ruled that the

trial court abused its discretion by permitting the victim advocate to accompany the alleged victim at the witness stand.

The CNMI government is unable to meet its burden of proving beyond a reasonable doubt that the error was harmless, according to the high court's opinion penned by Associate Justice John A. Manglona and concurred by Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro and Justice Pro Tem Herbert D. Soll.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Santos, also known as Grandpa Ping, with two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree for molesting the girl on April 23, 2011, and May 7, 2011, at his house in Tanapag.

In October 2012, the jury found Santos guilty of all charges.

In March 2013, Camacho sentenced Santos to the maxi-

mum of 60 years in prison, to be served without the possibility of parole.

Camacho noted that the violence done to the girl was so severe that nine days after the incident, doctors at the Commonwealth Health Center could still see the damage.

Santos appealed his conviction to the Supreme Court.

Before the first trial, Camacho held a hearing on the government's motion to allow a victim advocate to accompany the girl near the witness stand.

During the hearing, Santos' counsel contended that a victim advocate was improper without a showing of need.

In response, the government asserted that the victim advocate was appropriate under NMI Rules of Evidence 611 because the girl was young, and testifying about sexual abuse can be embarrassing.

After considering the parties'

Search continues for overdue fishing boat near Majuro

HONOLULU—The U.S. Coast Guard continues the search for an overdue 82-foot commercial fishing vessel near the Republic of Marshall Islands on Sunday.

Fishing vessel *Clear Water 02* reportedly went missing with nine people aboard while en route to Majuro for offload on Thursday.

A Coast Guard aircraft has searched 27,412 square miles totaling 10 search hours. Eight good Samaritan vessels are also assisting with a total of 27,412 square miles searched since Thursday.

At 5:26pm Thursday, watchstanders at the Joint Rescue Coordination Center in Honolulu received notification from the Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Majuro after the vessel failed to return to port as scheduled.

Clear Water 02 is a Federated States of Micronesia-flagged vessel with one Marshallese and eight Chinese nationals aboard.

An HC-130 Hercules airplane crew launched from Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point at 8:39pm Thursday.

The HC-130 crew arrived on scene at 4:30am Friday, conducted track line searches totaling 391 miles, and deployed two self-locating datum marker buoys.

Watchstanders at the JRCC used data gathered from the SLDDBs and the search and rescue optimal planning system to calculate the search area. SAROPS is a software system that uses simulated particles generated by users in a graphical interface. These particles are then

influenced by environmental data to provide information on search object drift. Using information on a point of origin and local currents, it calculates the most likely area to find a person or object in the water.

On-scene conditions are 4-foot seas and 30 mph winds.

The 14th Coast Guard District encompasses an area of 12.2 mil-

lion square miles of the Central and South Pacific. Coast Guard aircraft based in Hawaii frequently travel thousands of miles in response to search and rescue and other calls for assistance. The Hercules is scheduled to be replaced by the HC-130J, which will bring increased capabilities to Coast Guard response across the Pacific. (USCG)



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<i>Maximum Annual Member Refund</i>	<i>\$ 575.00</i>	<i>\$ 1,050.00</i>	<i>\$ 1,586.00</i>

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL 288-8877

BAVI

From Page 1

miles west of Tinian, and 460 miles west-southwest of Saipan, according to the U.S. National Weather Service.

Packing maximum winds of 45 miles per hour, Bavi was moving west toward the Philippines at 13mph and is expected to weaken and could be downgraded to a tropical depression tonight, Tuesday.

Marvin Seman, special assistant for Homeland Security and Emergency Management, told *Saipan Tribune* that the all-clear signal was hoisted for the CNMI as of 5am yesterday.

Govt resumes work

The government resumed work yesterday in the aftermath of Bavi.

In a statement, Gov. Eloy S. Inos officially declared the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota “all clear” Monday morning.

Inos, citing the latest report from the Emergency Operations Center of the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, said the storm is maintaining a westward track and has moved further away from the Marianas.

The storm no longer poses a threat to the Commonwealth, Inos said.

“The storm interrupted our routines, but only temporarily. Government services were not affected during Bavi’s worst,

and they will not be affected while we do our best to clean up what’s left,” Inos said. “We ask all employees and department heads to report to work today to continue essential services and assess their workplaces after the storm’s aftermath.”

The governor said his office is “grateful for the team at the Emergency Operations Center who tirelessly sought out troubled areas and sent crews out to assess the damage and clear out those parts of our islands affected.”

“We ask all residents to give them patience as they proceed with the work of restoring our villages back to normalcy,” Inos said.

He cautioned all residents to not touch any materials that may be hazardous such as broken glass or downed power lines during the relief effort, and refrain from venturing near reefs due to residual rip currents that may cause injury or loss of life.

Cleanup efforts

Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig said there were downed trees but they managed to clear the debris from primary roads yesterday morning to make them passable.

“There was no interruption of power and no injuries were reported so far. Seaport and airport are open and the hospital is still in good shape,” Atalig told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said only one family was evacuated to the Aging Center at the height of the storm.

Atalig said they are doing

preliminary damage assessment on houses and farm areas.

“Homeland Security people did a great job and prepared us for the incoming wind and storm,” the mayor said.

On Saipan, Mayor David Apatang was seen yesterday morning leading his crew in clearing roads of fallen trees and other debris, with the help of the Department of Public Works.

He said he did not receive any report of storm-related injuries, but some houses and structures were hit by fallen trees.

Apatang supervised his crews in cutting up a big rubber tree that was uprooted and was blocking the entire Hagoi Road corner Texas Road near Mt. Carmel School in Chalan Kanoa.

Power restoration

CUC executive director Alan Fletcher said a little more than 80 percent of Saipan had power as of yesterday afternoon, but a lot of isolated areas still had no power. He said the problem were the lateral power lines in some areas.

He said Kagman 3 was still a problem but CUC was able to restore power and water wells in other portions of Kagman.

Split transformers and knocked down power poles were some of the damage reported.

“It’s down to the hard-grinding work now—of removing debris, fixing pole tops, replacing what poles need to be replaced, replacing what transformers need to be replaced. It’s just time-con-

suming,” Fletcher said.

He said all primary feeders were up by 2am or 3am yesterday.

Fletcher said the water supply is still weak on the island due to the loss of power in all CUC wells.

“Water is lacking in some areas. That is the biggest concern right now,” he added.

A separate CUC statement said that, as of 5pm yesterday, water service was already restored to all villages on Saipan with the exception of Garapan and Dandan, while service to Kagman is limited.

“We encourage extra conservation of water by all customers until the entire water system has been fully restored, particularly those in the three areas listed above, until CUC service is fully restored. ...Please direct inquiries to CUC Call Center 664-4282,” the CUC statement said.

Classes resume

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan said all public schools, including Head Start Centers, on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota will resume classes today, Tuesday.

The Northern Marianas College will also reopen today, with all classes on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota resuming as scheduled. NMC cancelled its classes yesterday so that staff could assess the impact of the storm and clear debris that were scattered in the campus. Some trees were uprooted and water leaks were found in the campus.

Tang said.

She raised concerns about the lack of regular payments for this quarter and had sought a meeting with Gov. Eloy S. Inos and his team to address these concerns.

Tang said that Inos had assured her the government’s cash receipts will improve near the end of March and that there will be enough money to pay the balance due for this quarter.

She noted that the CNMI government has also been making the 25 percent payments to make up for the reduction in pension payments (the “25 percent payments”).

“While it is commendable that the governor is trying to help the retirees, the Settlement Fund believes that these funds should be used to fund the regular 75 percent payments and/or invested to extend the investment horizon of the Settlement Fund,” Tang said.

Tang also hinted that they may file a court action against the Northern Marianas College, which is the only remaining autonomous agency that is not current and refuses to pay the Settlement Fund its outstanding balance of \$71,749.43.

Tang said they will ask the U.S. District Court for the NMI to issue an order requiring NMC to pay all employer contributions at the rate of 30 percent, together with interest and penalties on the unpaid portion.

Delta Air Lines corporate communications manager Ryoko Matsumoto said they added one extra flight and used a bigger aircraft for one of their scheduled flights to accommodate affected passengers from Sunday’s cancellations.

On Sunday, Delta cancelled two of three scheduled flights due to bad weather conditions on Saipan and operated one flight as scheduled.

Cape Air/United Airlines cancelled all flights yesterday morning as announced on Sunday. Their flights resumed in the afternoon.

Asiana Airlines flights were also operational, according to their website.

Local carrier Star Marianas survived with no damage to their fleet and resumed operations yesterday morning once the winds were within the limits

for their aircraft, according to their president, Shaun Christian.

To assist Bavi victims, the Salvation Army opened a walk-in kitchen to serve meals at their Corps Community Center on Capital Hill, the green house located across the street from Ton Goru, which used to be Esco’s. Anyone may walk in and receive a meal.

“We are cooking and delivering meals to the remaining open Emergency Shelter at the Kagman Community Center,” said Salvation Army ministry leader Wayne Gillespie. “We will be working closely with our partners, such as the CNMI Department of Homeland Security, the American Red Cross and others, to efficiently render assistance where it is needed most.” *(With reports from Joel D. Pinaroc, Dennis Chan, and Jayson Camacho)*

does not get done. So other staff have to pick up the slack and that impacts our workload. Everything has been transparent with the issues and expenditures. I don’t have any message to the staff other than to honor the mission and bear in mind that our ultimate loyalty is to our patrons, the CNMI, and federal funders, donors, and also the Joeten Kiyu benefactors and their families.”

Library board member Frank Villagomez said they would lose a good executive director because Gonzales was able to secure over \$1 million in federal grants and, with the help of the staff and council, JKPL saw renovations since it first opened in 1991.

“Mr. Gonzales’ resignation was due to the many discussions with the staff and we asked him to tender his resignation and he willingly gave his resignation. I guess he is ready to move on and utilize his skills elsewhere in the government,” he said.

Villagomez said one of the main reasons why the decision on Gonzales’ fate took awhile is that they had to secure the budget and the federal grants that were pending. He said they needed Gonzales to complete these tasks before he resigned.

“We wanted to maintain the operations of the library and that it doesn’t fall in anyway,” he said.

As for the search for a new executive director, Villagomez said they haven’t announced the position yet.

“On behalf of the council we would like to thank the public and staff and everyone that were really waiting for this decision and thank them for their patience as we resolve this issue,” Villagomez said.

In a separate interview, JKPL technical services librarian Rosalyn Ajoste said she was relieved that Gonzales has resigned.

“It is like a breath of fresh air for the library staff and it is a relief that we can go back to serving the community and doing what is in the best interest of the library,” Ajoste said.

TANG

From Page 1

“Unless there is additional contribution which increases the Settlement Fund’s investment horizon, the Settlement Fund has very limited options for higher returns,” she said.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood will hear updates on the status of the Settlement Fund this Friday morning.

The Settlement Fund was created under the settlement agreement in Betty Johnson’s class action last year.

In her report for combined fourth quarter fiscal year 2014 and first quarter fiscal year 2015, Tang disclosed that the beginning value of the Fund’s investments on Oct. 1, 2014, was \$95.3 million, while its ending value on Dec. 31, 2014 was \$86.8 million.

For the quarter ending Dec. 31, 2014 (first quarter 2015), the Settlement Fund liquidated \$7.5 million of its investments to fund pension payments, and had a net investment gain of \$129,000.

Tang said for the month ending Feb. 28, 2015, the Fund’s beginning investment value was \$84.5 million while its ending investment value was \$84.7 million.

In her view, the Saipan casino

» Fund’s ending investment value for February 2015 was \$84.7M
 » Saipan casino licensing fee of \$15M per year should increase Fund’s investment horizon
 » Of Fund’s \$50.8M FY 2015 budget, \$48.6M allocated to pension benefits, disability payments
 » On settlement deal payments, CNMI govt must pay \$4.7M by March 31, 2015
 » Trustee readying court action vs NMC for refusing to pay \$71,749 in employer contributions

license fee of \$15 million being paid by Best Sunshine International, Ltd. every year is better used for payment of the 75 percent pension and/or investment by the Settlement Fund so as to increase the investment horizon, instead of the 25 percent payment that the CNMI government is paying to retirees.

Tang said the Settlement Fund’s budget for fiscal year 2015 is \$50.8 million—a drop of 1.60 percent compared to fiscal 2014.

Of this amount, she said, \$48.6 million is allocated to Settlement Fund members’ pension benefits and disability payments; \$887,878 for wages, salaries and employer expenses; \$940,000 for consultant and professionals fees; \$256,000 for general adminis-

trative expenses; and \$10,000 for other expenses.

For its scheduled settlement agreement payments, the CNMI government is required to pay \$27 million this year, a \$2 million increase from fiscal 2014, Tang said.

She said the CNMI was prompt in making regular payments to meet its quarterly obligations for the fourth quarter of 2014 (July to September) and first quarter of 2015 (October to December).

For the second quarter of 2015 that began on Jan. 1, 2015, and ends on March 31, 2015, the amount of \$9.45 million is due, she said. With three weeks left in the quarter, \$4.7 million, which is 50 percent of the amount due this quarter, has to be paid by March 31, 2015,

IN ISSUING PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION VS ESTATE ADMINISTRATOR

Taisacan barred from blockading Rota's Airport Road

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has granted the CNMI government's motion for preliminary injunction that prohibits estate administrator Simeon E. Taisacan from blockading Airport Road on Rota and all other roads in the Commonwealth.

"The threatened injury to the people of Rota is immediate and irreparable. It is immediate because Mr. Taisacan made a threat to close the road and took affirmative steps to carry out his threat," said Camacho

in an order on Saturday.

The judge noted that even after sending a letter to the court that Taisacan did not intend to close the road, he left the sign in place until the morning of the hearing on March 6, 2015.

"The potential harm is irreparable because it will be impossible to determine the precise amount of damage to the safety and wellbeing of the public and in terms of the inconvenience caused to the public," Camacho said.

A status conference will be held at the Rota Court House on June 5, 2015, at 10:30am.

Taisacan was earlier given

a temporary restraining order for threatening to block Airport Road on Rota. He has notified Gov. Eloy S. Inos that if his claim for compensation over the alleged taking of their land is not resolved in 30 days, he will file a lawsuit in federal court against the CNMI government.

In his letter to Camacho last March 4, Taisacan said he has been trying to resolve this matter outside of court for years, with no positive resolution coming from the CNMI government.

"If the CNMI government fails to work with me to resolve this matter, I will proceed with filing a federal lawsuit," said Taisacan, who is the

administrator of the Selvino A. Taisacan estate.

Taisacan also informed Camacho that he no longer intends to close the portion of Route 10, also known as Airport Road, that crosses his private property.

Last Feb. 26, Camacho issued the TRO after the CNMI government, through assistant attorney general Christopher M. Timmons, requested a TRO and filed a motion for preliminary injunction and a complaint against Taisacan.

Timmons stated that Taisacan wrote the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. last Feb. 17, threatening to close Airport Road on Rota on March 1, 2015, at 8am.

Timmons said Taisacan has long asserted that the government took two parcels of their land to build Airport Road, but he, however, has not filed a lawsuit.

In granting the preliminary injunction, Camacho said he is very much concerned that a blockade of Airport Road would be detrimental to the health, safety, and schools of Rota, especially in light of the fact that children would be denied access to school breakfasts and lunches, which for some may be their primary source of nutrition.

Camacho said the government has proven a significant degree of likelihood that it will succeed on the merits of its pub-

lic nuisance cause of action as the threatened actions interfere with the public's right to use a public thoroughfare.

The judge said the Commonwealth has proven a significant potential for irreparable harm to the people of Rota if a preliminary injunction is not granted (to include potential death, impairment of access to education, and denial of supplemental nutrition for hungry children).

Camacho said Taisacan will suffer no harm by an injunction, but the Commonwealth and its people will suffer greatly if it is denied.

"This is truly a case brought entirely in the public interest," Camacho said.

Congress allocates \$2.5M to clean NMI's contaminated military sites

By **JOEL D. PINAROC**
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Congress has allocated \$2.5 million for the cleanup of three formerly used defense sites in the CNMI this year.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said he was able to secure the appropriation from the Defense Environmental Restoration Program, which is the source of the funding.

The lawmaker said the FUDS, as the military sites are known, "were contaminated by military activity during and after World War II."

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for doing the cleanup, he added.

One site is Tanapag Fuel Farm, which will get an allocation of \$1.525 million. The project consists of the removal of 17 aboveground fuel storage tanks and then a study of any remaining contamination.

The cleanup effort in Marpi Point Field will get \$343,200

and will involve a study of the extent and types of unexploded ordnances on the property.

The biological survey and digital mapping are in progress and should be completed by the end of March, Sablan said.

The third site is a hospital dumpsite located at the Kingfisher Golf Links. Cleanup efforts will get a funding of \$587,300, including a study to determine the extent of contamination and whether there are any risks to human health. The study is also expected to be completed this year.

Sablan said there are still five other FUDS sites on Saipan that require remediation. These include the Koblerville Naval Supply Center, Naftan Bomb Storage, Naftan Ordnance Disposal, Northfield, and Ordnance Plan.

Previous cleanup projects, including the Tanapag Village removal of PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls), Kagman Airfield, and Edoni have been completed.

PSS Islandwide STEM Fair on March 28

The 2015 CNMI Public School System Islandwide STEM Fair will be held Saturday, March 28, at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. Participants from public and private schools in all grade levels will be showcased in this annual competition. Each school is allowed five entries.

Judging will begin promptly at 9am. The public is not allowed in the gymnasium while the judging is going on. There will be an open viewing around noon when the judges have finished, followed by the award ceremony around 1pm. All are welcome to attend.

Students' projects will be judged and awarded first to third place in grade clusters. The first place winners will represent the CNMI in the 37th Annual Guam Islandwide STEM Fair to be held in May at the University of Guam.

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics—STEM for short—are subjects

that develop problem-solving abilities and critical thinking skills. The STEM Fair has always been one of the best opportunities for students to explore and share their ideas. Through active inquiry students ask questions, make predictions, test their ideas, and communicate their findings. This active exploration helps students to come to a deeper understanding of key science concepts. By communicating their ideas, they develop presentation skills and self-confidence.

The goal is for the CNMI Public School System to provide an avenue for students to express their scientific creativity and problem-solving abilities while using 21st century skills. It should be the aim for every student to apply critical thinking skills, to plan, to conduct tests, to analyze and to communicate their findings. Let's support our young scientists at work! (*PSS*)

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Sagana, Sune top inaugural CNMI Voice competition



Uncle Ben Studio staff, judges, and CNMI Voice Season 1 top winners pose for a group photo after the competition.

JAYSON CAMACHO

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

BonnieGio Sagana and Mica Ella Sune topped the CNMI Voice Festival Season 1 competition last Friday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi Purpose Center in Susupe.

Sagana came in first place for the teen division with a powerful rendition of *You Raise Me Up*, with the judges giving him scores above 90.

Sune, who sang Whitney Houston's *One Moment in Time*, came in first place in the children's division.

Sagana also got two more medals—the Quartermaster Award and the Voice Fest Fellow Award—plus \$325 in cash.

The competition judges were 2014 Miss Marianas Teen Gianna Camacho, Northern Marianas College instructors Chavel Green and Zerlyn Taimanao, and martial arts instructor Tai Doram.

After the competition, Sagana told *Saipan Tribune* he was amazed that he won against other great singers.

"I feel amazed because I think that the other contestants were really good. My parents and friends supported me and I would like to thank all of them for being here and doing what they could for me," Sagana said.

"I chose this song because it best represents me and I dedicated it to my mother [Lyn Maglanque] because she supported me through my endeavors on CNMI Voice," he added.

Sune surprised everyone with her powerful and strong voice despite being so young. Judges

described her as impressive.

She got the first place trophy in the children's division, \$250 in cash, and a Best in Classical Music medal.

Thanks to her numerous sponsors, Ramhae Andrea Awit got the Most Popular Award. She received \$400 in

cash plus three medals: the Leadership Award, Community Service Award, and Music Excellence Award.

The Most Popular Award for the kids went to Shaina Dimalanta, who also got \$250 in cash and a Best in Broadway Music medal.

Uncle Ben's Studio manager Charry De Guzman said all competition participants went through six months of training.

"I'd like to thank all the parents because of their support throughout the training leading up to the grand finals. It ended successfully and we thank the

sponsors who supported the competition," she said.

The CNMI Voice Festival was the first competition hosted by Uncle Ben's Studio. It will be soon hosting Season 2 of the competition.



JAYSON CAMACHO

Top placers for both categories—teens and children divisions pose with their awards, trophies, and prizes. From left to right: Teen division third placer Angela Barbo, Miss Marianas Teen 2014 and judge Gianna Camacho, teen division second placer Mikaella Cunanan, teen division winner BonnieGio Sagana, Most Popular awardee for teens Ramhae Awit, children division third placer Hyena Kim, Most Popular awardee for children Shaina Dimalanta, children division winner Mica Ella Sune, children division second placer Alyson Camacho, and CNMI Voice judge Tai Doram.

Mayor's Office captures 132 stray dogs

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

So far this year, about 132 stray dogs have been taken off the streets as part of the Saipan Mayor's office stray dog removal campaign, according to dog control program manager Spencer Marchadesch.

The first phase of the campaign was conducted from Feb. 9 to 20 in the villages of Dandan

and Garapan. A total of 60 dogs were caught—40 from Dandan and 20 from Garapan.

The second phase was in Kobleville and China Town from Feb. 23 to 26 and it resulted in the removal of 40 strays.

The remaining captures were from complaints and urgent requests received by the dog control program.

The Mayor's Office is now working at San Antonio and

Navy Hill from March 9 to 20. Then they will hit Chalan Kanoa and Puerto Rico from March 23 to April 3; Susupe and Tanapag from April 6 to April 17; San Jose and San Roque from April 20 to May 1; and Chalan Kiya and As Matuis from May 4 to May 15.

"We still get a lot of complaints of stray dogs in other villages, near dog bites, and dogs chasing kids. So some-

times, we have to reroute from our scheduled villages and respond to the complaints," Marchadesch said.

"We are asking the community to be patient as we continue our stray dog removal campaign and try our best to take care of everyone's complaints. As much as we want to stay at one village at a time, we still have to reroute," he added.

Marchadesch assured that the campaign would continue every year and not just once.

In related news, villages are starting to look clean due to the Mayor's Office's beautification project of sending community workers out to both sides of the island, with the goal of eventually cleaning every village on Saipan.

In an earlier interview with Mayor's Office field operations director Joan Aquino, she said that staff have been working hard for the past weeks and the project is going smoothly. They will also tackle road works in the process.

Small craft advisory in effect

Based on information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management, large swells will maintain hazardous surf and a high risk of rip currents on north and east facing reefs of the Marianas.

A small craft advisory is in effect until 3pm today, Tuesday.

Winds have already subsided to around 20 knots and will subside further to around 15 knots by this afternoon.

Seas of 9 to 11 feet will subside to between 8 and 9 feet also by this afternoon.

The public is being advised to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along north and east facing reefs, as rip currents will be life threatening. (HSEM)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Lucky you, Vincent John L. Agulto! It's your 7th birthday and St. Patrick's Day too! May your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow! Faith, hope, love, and luck! Tuturam Fam bam.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NJSDA, ITS names national teams to represent CNMI

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

The National Junior Speech and Debate Association, along with the International Thespian Society, recently held its regional competition and named the members of its national team that will represent the islands in the upcoming national contest this summer.

For the NJSDA national team, Won Kwan Kim will represent the islands in the Lincoln-Douglas Debate; Kate Ishida will be competing in the original oratory category; Kristina Crisostomo will compete in dramatic interpretation; Kelvin Wolf will represent in the humorous interpretation category, and Hyunin "Harry" Noh will represent the islands in extemporaneous speaking.

Melody Woo will compete in the prose category at the nationals, with Esther Kim for poetry, Esther Park for story telling, Jeremiah Fernandez for impromptu speaking, and the tandem of Deirdre Mae Rosete and Myka Villegas for duo interpretation.

Crisostomo told *Saipan Tribune* that her mother, the late Joana Vitug, prepared all of her pieces and practiced tirelessly with her for the regionals.

"It feels great to win. I feel a great sense of accomplishment. Looking back at all the nights my mommy and I spent rehearsing and how frustrating it was, now I'm proud of myself and appreciate all of my mommy's hard work for me," she added. "All of this is for her."

Eighth grade student Kelvin Wolf said he feels "anxious but extremely excited" about going to nationals for the third time in a row.

"I joined NJSDA and I could not have done it without my parents at my side. Even my siblings contributed a lot for me to make it this far," he said. "This is yet another opportunity for me to see how far my hard work and strong determination can take me at the national event in Texas."

The regional speech and debate competition also hosted categories in the Chamorro and Carolinian languages. Vince



THOMAS A. MANGLONA II

Members of the National Junior Speech and Debate Association team that will represent the CNMI at the national tilt this June pose for a photo with their speech coaches at Mount Carmel School during the award ceremony.

Phillip Salvador won first place for his performance in Chamorro dramatic interpretation, Issa Salazar topped the Chamorro category of humorous interpretation, John Isaac A. San Nicolas won first in Chamorro prose, and Victoria Dela Cruz garnered the top spot in Chamorro poetry.

Bina Mary Reyes placed first in both of her categories, Carolinian dramatic interpretation and poetry.

The junior speech and debate national team is fondly referred to as "Team Coconuts."

Over 50 students qualified to compete in the regional competition, with a little over 100 students competing regularly at the monthly competition meets.

According to CNMI Speech and Debate Association board chair Harold Easton, the team will be scheduling weekly practices throughout the month in preparation for the championships in Dallas, Texas, this June.

International Thespian Society laureates

Middle school and high school

students also recently spent the weekend competing for spots on the national team for the International Thespian Society competition.

For the Junior Thespian Society, Kelvin Wolf won first under the monologue category, Erica Tubera will represent the islands in solo musical theatre, and Deirdre Rosete and Myka Villegas will compete in duet acting.

For the Senior Thespian Society, students will be competing in a number of national independent events, junior college auditions, and senior scholarships.

Kagman High School's Elizabeth Jones and Marianas High School's Lee Ann Jastillano will be representing the islands with their monologue performances. Emily Jones and Roland Balajadia will compete in the color musical theatre.

In the group musical theatre category, MHS Rhythm N' Harmony members Annabel Manzo, Riczi Cano, Jameson Lee, and Neil Fama will be traveling to the states along with MHS

Fortissimo members Jayrald Mercene, and Yuuki Nishida.

MHS' Angelica Meteo and Gunn Woo Shim topped the costume design category. Angela Cruz, Beltron Muna, and Kiana Atalig will be competing in the national film category.

The ITS team will be travel-

ing to Lincoln, Nebraska, this summer for the national competition to be held at the University of Nebraska.

"We have a great team. Everyone did well and was fantastic," Easton told *Saipan Tribune*. "We will now be working very closely with the coaches to make sure

everyone is a hundred percent prepared. I think they will do a really, really good job. I see no problem there at all."

The National Speech and Debate Association regional competition for high school students is expected to take place next week.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
PO Box 502149; Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 Fax: (670) 235-7147



NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

ON AN APPLICATION FOR A QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE AUTHORIZING THE ABATEMENT AND REBATE OF CERTAIN CNMI TAXES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that:

A. Public hearing. In accordance with the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and pursuant to the rule-making procedures of the Administrative Procedures Act, the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) will conduct a public hearing at the Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe, Saipan, on Tuesday, March 17, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. on the application of Saipan International Real Estate Developer Corp. Ltd. dba Ocean Vista Resort, Applicant, for a Qualifying Certificate, which request is for tax relief by way of abatement and rebate of CNMI taxes in consideration of Applicant's proposed resort hotel, all pursuant to the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and as set out in the Applicant's application for a Qualifying Certificate.

B. Nature of hearing. This hearing shall be open to the public. Oral or written statements will be received from anyone wishing to testify thereat, which statement will be incorporated into the records of the hearing.

C. Further information. For further information, please contact CDA at the above telephone numbers or visit its offices at the CDA Building in San Jose, Saipan.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director

UOG PRESIDENTIAL LECTURE SERIES

Marshallese poet Kathy Jetnil-Kijner

University of Guam president Dr. Robert A. Underwood presents the first Presidential Lecture of 2015 featuring Marshallese poet and spoken word artist Kathy Jetnil-Kijner on Wednesday, March 18, at 5:30pm in the College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences Lecture Hall on the UOG Campus. Her lecture is titled: "*Iep Jeltok: A Basket of Poetry and Activism*."

Jetnil-Kijner is a Marshallese poet and spoken word artist whose work focuses on raising awareness surrounding the is-

suues and threats faced by her people—militarism and the nuclear legacy, climate change and climate justice, and adaptation and racism in America are just a few topics her work touches upon.

She received her master's degree from the Center for Pacific Island Studies at University of Hawaii Manoa, with a focus on the history of Marshallese oral traditions and the transition into textual pro-



Kijner

ductions from Marshallese authors.

This past September, she performed at the opening of the United Nations Climate Summit in New York, following the speeches of Al Gore, Leonardo DiCaprio, and UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, and has since been thrust into global conversations on climate change. She currently teaches at the College of the Marshall Islands. (UOG)

CNMI Motherread/Fatheread holds completion ceremonies

A total of 52 adults and 54 children completed the CNMI Motherread/Fatheread Family Literacy Program from the Kagman Elementary School, the Garapan Elementary School, and the William S. Reyes Elementary School. The CNMI Motherread/Fatheread event honored the families from these respective schools for completing eight weeks of family literacy classes.

Families would meet for one hour per week for eight weeks. During these sessions, they would borrow books from the Motherread/Fatheread curriculum, read stories, and share experiences and activities with their families and receive incentives for attendance.

The Kagman Elementary School completion ceremony on March 6, 2015, saw five Adult Course participants successfully completing the Motherread/Fatheread Family Literacy Program: Maria Rosa San Nicolas, Jack Pangelinan, Benlyn Mettao, Dolores Taitano, and Theofilus Minor.

Story Exploring participants included the following: Tyler Rdialul, Jerrico Pangelinan, Anastacia Minor, Ely Joseph Taitano, and Darren Pangelinan.

The Garapan Elementary School completion ceremony on March 5, 2015, congratulated 21 Adult Course participants: Janet C. Bagas, Analyn De Luna, Marla Ann Cabrera, Deborah Ladrangan, Romelyn Ramos, Rod Ramos, Victor Silva, Evangeline Seguritan, Lan Yan Xu Carlson, Belinda G. Dela Cruz, Mildred Ebuon, Jennifer Felipe, Precilla Arcega, Anastasia Mality, Valerio Mality, Raynna Mality, Surya Gautam, Sandhya Gautam, Mei Rengil, Editha Villamena, and Rita Demapan.

Story Exploring participants included the following 26 children: Precious Denise Valerio, Xyleena Eliana Villamena, Ashnoy Mallik, Menmoy Mallik, Ria Rengil, Rina Rengil, Paul Sam Paulis, Rayjay Mality, Telinamie Mality, Johnlane Delacruz, Sunshine Gautam, Susana Gautam, Rodnyle Matthew Ramos, Ryle Angelo Ramos, Reign Angel Ramos, Gabriella Venezuela, Vince Silva, Evan Joseph Seguritan, Elline Joy Seguritan, Angela Xu Carlson, Leandro Delacruz, Francine Joy Ebuon, Earicka Joi Bagas, Heart Mariell M. De Luna, Jaceylen Rios, and Noah Wilbur Ladrangan.

The William S. Reyes Elementary School completion ceremony on March 3, 2015, saw 26 Adult Course participants successfully completing the Motherread/Fatheread Family Literacy Program: Marichu V. Legaspi, Dorothy Fernandez Trasporto, Estelita Oller Cabrera, Jane Tanamor Malaban, Icy D. Maximo, Jeremiah Encarnacion Maximo, Elvie D. Castillo, Maria Gloria Nery Dalupo, Evelyn Cabrera Palacios, Susana N. Cabanban, Edilwisa Sombrero Viana, Amy Guanlao, Luis Jr. Hernandez, Maria Erlinda Voces, Jonnielyn Namaulleg, Diego Lazar, Elvira Valenzuela Lazar, Tina Borja, Shirley Lynne Monkeya, Felix Fitial, Lou L. Fitial, Erlynda Elewel, Olivia B. Aldan, Precila B. Campo, Cecilia Guevarra, and Minda Castro.

Story Exploring participants include the following 23 children: Montrea Elewel, Marialus Elewel Sablan, Jene Daniel Sablan, Alexander Guevarra Jr., Mary Grace Legaspi, Jercey Maximo, Jeremiah Maximo Jr., Mark Anthony Lloren, Viana Edison, Benjamin Palacios, Alliezon Palomares, Kiara Tabora, Angel Nica Voces, David Camacho, Herbit Jr. Villagomez, Avril Lazar, Alvin Lazar, Aldrin James Lazar, Juco Jesudicto Limes Fitial, Paul Lizama, Maria Rosa Manibusan, Frances Hernandez, and Murielle Campo.

A great big "thank you" goes out to parent trainers Lilia King, Celina Foreman, Beth Demapan, Angel Lourdes Cabrera, Bryan Manabat; Story Exploring instructors Jocelyn Eusebio, Margie Sugaste, Evangeline Espanola, Reinaldine Casilang, Joanne Ordon, and Rency Castro; the Kagman Elementary School administration (Go, Marlins!); the Garapan Elementary School administration (Yay, Mallards!); the William S. Reyes Elementary School Administration (Biba, Kingfishers!); the Americorps volunteers; the CNMI Motherread/Fatheread team; and the Northern Marianas Humanities Council for making such a successful event finale possible. We thank you and congratulate you families for your commitment and dedication to literacy for your families!

For a schedule of the next Motherread/Fatheread program available near you, contact 235-7319, email cnmimotherread@gmail.com, or go to the Facebook page of CNMI Motherread Fatheread. **(CNMI Motherread/Fatheread)**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Kagman Elementary School Motherread/Fatheread Adult Course participants show off their certificates at a completion ceremony on March 6, 2015.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The William S. Reyes Elementary School's Motherread/Fatheread Adult Course participants are presented with certificates at a completion ceremony on March 3, 2015.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The William S. Reyes Elementary School's Story Exploring participants show off their certificates at a completion ceremony on March 3, 2015.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Garapan Elementary School's Motherread/Fatheread Adult Course participants and Story Exploring participants have their picture taken after a completion ceremony on March 5, 2015.



In this photo provided by China's Xinhua News Agency, locals walk past debris in Port Vila, Vanuatu, after Cyclone Pam ripped through the tiny South Pacific archipelago, Sunday, March 15, 2015. AP

Vanuatu president: Storm-wrecked country must 'start anew'

By ELAINE KURTENBACH
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SENDAI, Japan (AP)—The Pacific island nation of Vanuatu has lost years of development progress and must “start anew” following a powerful cyclone that destroyed or damaged 90 percent of the buildings in the capital of Port Vila, the country’s president said Monday.

Baldwin Lonsdale, visibly weary and red eyed from lack of sleep, said in an interview with The Associated Press that he and other top government officials were preparing to return home later Monday from Sendai, in northeastern Japan, where they were attending a disaster conference.

Australia, which along with New Zealand and France is providing rescue and relief help, offered transport from Sydney to Port Vila, his staff said.

Lonsdale said that the limited information he was able to get from home showed six people confirmed dead, and 30 injured and hospitalized on Port Vila after the category 5 typhoon smashed across the Vanuatu archipelago.

He said information from other islands was not available because most communication links were still not working. But the airport in Port Vila has reopened, allowing aid and relief flights to reach the country. Port Vila is on the country’s main island of Efate.

“This is a very devastating cyclone in Vanuatu. I term it as a monster, a monster. It’s a set-

SIDEBAR

Vanuatu president speaks of devastation from Cyclone Pam

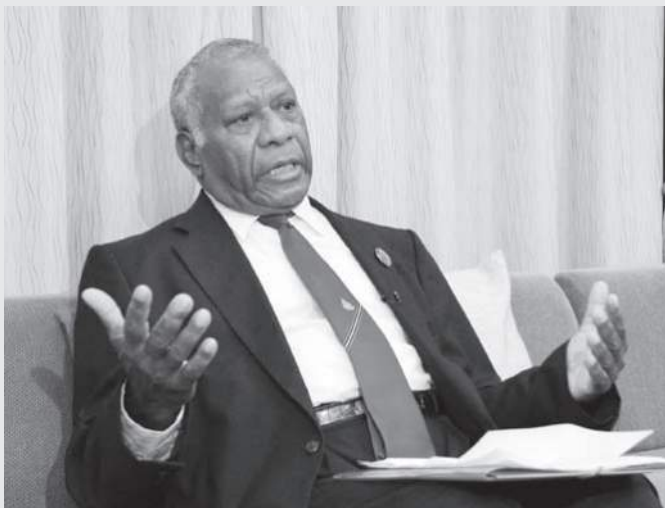
SENDAI, Japan (AP)—Baldwin Lonsdale, president of Vanuatu, the Pacific island nation devastated by a powerful tropical storm last week, was attending a disaster conference in the Japanese city of Sendai when the cyclone struck. So far, he and his delegation have received information only from Vanuatu’s main city of Port Vila. Following are excerpts from an interview with The Associated Press.

Q: What is the situation in Vanuatu now?

A: “Cyclone Pam has devastated Port Vila. More than 90 percent of the buildings and houses in Port Vila have been destroyed or damaged. The state of emergency that has been issued is only for Port Vila. Once we receive an update on the extent of the damage in the provinces then another state of emergency will be issued for the outer islands.”

Q: Is there an update on casualties and damage?

A: “More than 1,000 people have been evacuated to evacuation centers and will be returning to their homes sometime later today, if their homes still



Vanuatu President Baldwin Lonsdale speaks during an interview in his hotel room in Sendai, Miyagi prefecture, northeastern Japan, Monday, March 16, 2015 while attending a U.N. conference on disaster risk reduction.

stand. That’s in Port Vila alone. Confirmed dead in Port Vila is six and more than 30 injuries. I do believe the number of casualties will not be high.

Q: Is there anything more that could have been done to prepare for the storm?

A: “This is a very devastating cyclone in Vanuatu. I term it as a monster, a monster. It’s a setback for the government and for the people of Vanuatu.

start anew again,” Lonsdale said.

He appealed for humanitarian aid for the homeland he called “paradise on Earth.”

“Tarpaulins, water containers, medical needs, gathering tools,

all this has been destroyed and damaged. I really request for humanitarian needs and assistance at this stage. Tarpaulins, water containers, medical needs, gathering tools, construction tools all these are very important right now.”

Q: Vanuatu is vulnerable to many disaster risks, including earthquakes, volcanoes, extreme weather and sea level rises due to climate change. Do you see the impact of climate change yourself?

A: “Climate change is contributing to the disasters in Vanuatu. We see the level of sea rise. Change in weather patterns. This year we have heavy rain more than every year.”

Q: How are you feeling as you prepare to head back home?

A: “Very emotional. My heart is for the people. Everyone has that same feeling. We don’t know what has happened to our families. Because there is a breakdown in communications we cannot reach our families. We do not know if our families are safe or not. As the leader of the nation, my whole heart is for the people, the nation.”

After all the development that has taken place, all this development has been wiped out. So it means we will have to start anew again.”

Q: What are the urgent needs for Vanuatu?

A: “The first priority is the humanitarian needs. People have lost many of their properties. Clothing, eating utensils, bathing . most of the necessary items of the households,

construction tools, all these are very important right now,” Lonsdale said.

Aerial surveillance Sunday showed some communities flattened, the head of the Vanuatu

Red Cross Society, Hannington Alatoa, said. Lonsdale said 1,000 people in Port Vila alone have been evacuated, while aid personnel from Australia, France, and New Zealand have

arrived to assess the damage.

Lonsdale said early warning systems and preparations in advance of the storm likely kept casualties to a minimum.

The leaders from Vanuatu found a receptive audience in Sendai, where the United Nations is working to craft a new framework for disaster risk reduction. Talks on an agreement have proven more difficult than expected, those involved say, because of issues largely related to financing and responsibility-sharing between developing and wealthy nations.

Japan convened the conference in Sendai to highlight progress in recovery and reconstruction following a massive earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster that struck its northeastern coast in March 2011, killing more than 18,500 people.

But Lonsdale said the timing of the storm, which has put Vanuatu’s plight in the spotlight, was a “wonder.”

“It is a miracle that we are here during this conference,” he said. “This conference is about disaster risk reduction. What is happening in Vanuatu is the reality. The reality of what is happening right now.”

Although communications have been partially restored in Vanuatu, Lonsdale and other officials said they had not yet been able to contact their own families.

“We do not know if our families are safe or not,” he said. “As the leader of the nation, my whole heart is for the people, the nation.”

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

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EDITORIAL

China's leaders control plenty, but not the afterlife

The arrogance of China's leaders is breathtaking. They censor the Internet. They tamp down political dissent. Now, they want to control the afterlife.

The *New York Times* reported Thursday that Communist Party officials are warning the Dalai Lama that he must reincarnate the way they want.

They're angry that the 14th Dalai Lama, 79, recently suggested that he might end his lineage as spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhists and not be reborn. He has been a thorn in China's side since fleeing into exile in 1959 after a failed uprising against Chinese rule in Tibet—a region China claims and where it has been accused of massive human rights violations.

While they're officially atheist, party officials want to make sure that a 15th Dalai Lama will toe the line.

"Decision-making power over the reincarnation of the Dalai Lama, and over the end or survival of this lineage, resides in the central government of China," a party official said on the website of the party's main newspaper.

The Dalai Lama has many supporters in the West. He attended the National Prayer Breakfast last month. President Barack Obama hosted him at the White House last year, praising his commitment to peace and strongly supporting the preservation of Tibetan religious and cultural traditions.

That provoked protests from the Chinese government, and the United States can only go so far. While Obama's supposed "pivot" to Asia and the Pacific might counter China's military might and diplomatic influence, we're tied at the hip economically.

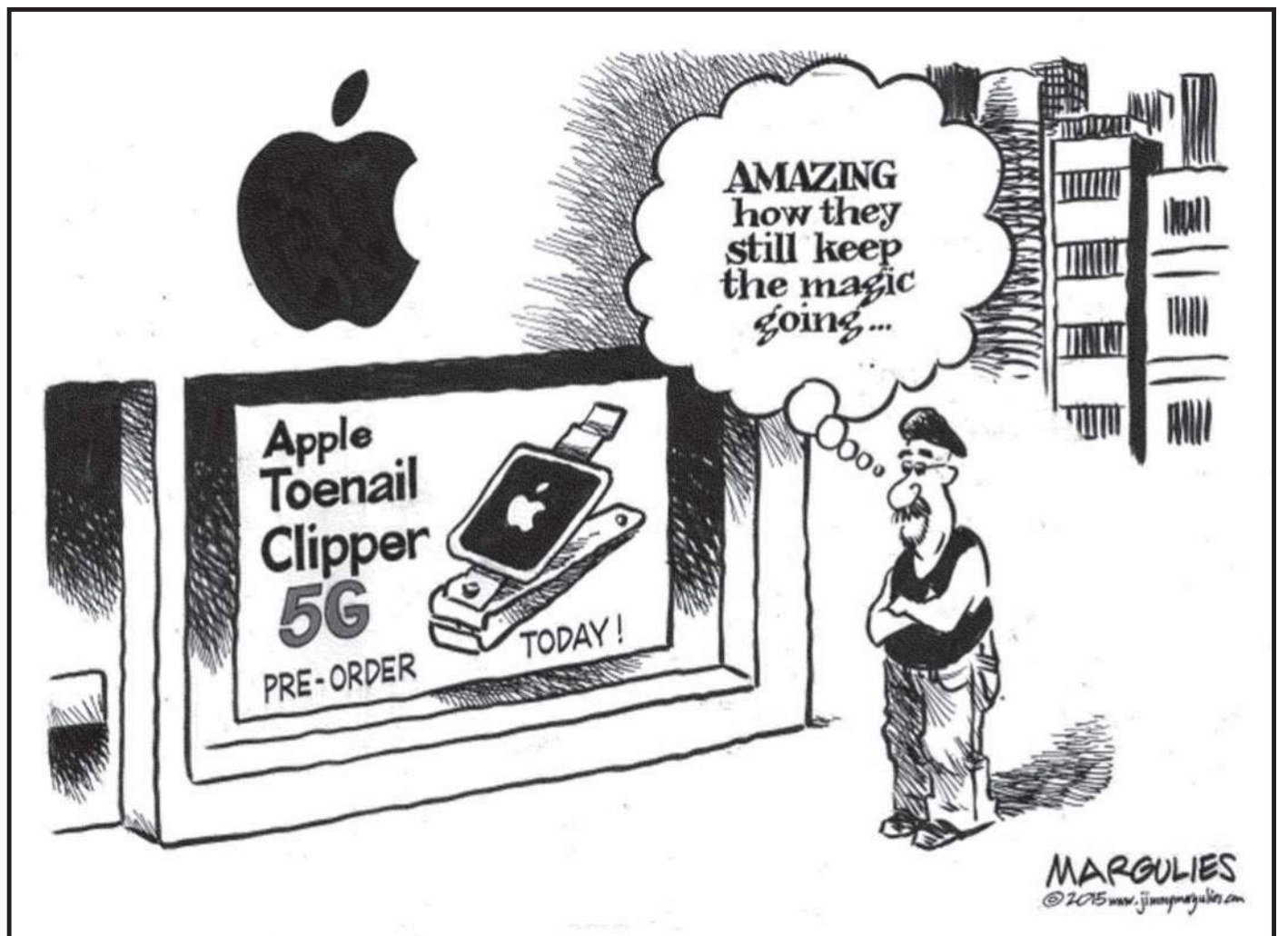
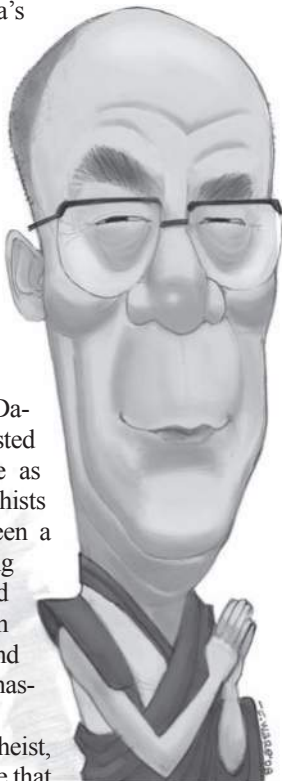
China is our second-biggest trading partner—more than \$590 billion last year, but with a \$343 billion deficit. Then there's the matter of \$1.3 trillion the federal government owes China.

Communist Party leaders may actually believe their power extends to reincarnation, given that they have managed to survive the violent put-down of the 1989 Tiananmen Square pro-democracy protests, and to navigate rapid economic growth with party-controlled capitalism.

What Chinese leaders are finding more difficult to control are larger forces. They can't escape climate change or stop demographics. An estimated 30 million more men than women will reach marrying age by 2020.

Those trends may prove to be their undoing, no matter how fervently their chosen Dalai Lama prays for them.

(c)2015 The Sacramento Bee (Sacramento, Calif.)



Boehner's minority govt of pragmatic Republicans

Last week's drama in the House of Representatives, when Speaker John A. Boehner needed Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi to rescue him from his own rebellious party, looked like a messy disaster for Republicans. But it could have been worse.

If the House GOP had forced a shutdown of the Homeland Security Department, as conservatives had threatened, it could have been a genuine debacle for a party trying to show it can govern: Transportation Security Administration and Border Patrol agents forced to work without pay, offices shuttered and more. Instead, Boehner's quiet capitulation to reality was mostly just humiliating.

And it suggests that Boehner has begun to master an unexpected challenge: the art of leading a minority government.

Minority? On paper, Republicans hold an impressive majority in the House of Representatives, with 245 seats to the Democrats' 188. But the GOP conference has been chronically, even theatrically divided. Hard-line conservatives—we once called them the tea party caucus, but they've rebranded themselves the Freedom Caucus—won't swallow the compromises needed to keep the government running. So if Boehner wants to avoid a shutdown, he sometimes needs to cobble together a temporary majority of pragmatic Republicans and Pelosi's opposition Democrats.

That's what happened last week. Initially, Boehner had vowed to fight "tooth and nail" against President Obama's decision to exempt from deportation as many as 5 million immigrants in the country illegally. But when conservatives tried to do that by holding up funding for Homeland Security, it quickly became clear that they had painted themselves into a corner. They could actually shut down Homeland Security or cave.

So, naturally, they divided. About two-thirds, led by the Freedom Caucus, voted defiantly for a shutdown. The rest, led by Boehner, voted to surrender. The non-Freedom Republicans (ouch!) were joined by Pelosi and her Democrats, who voted gleefully for a bill that left Obama's immigration decision intact.

"This decision, considering where we are, is the right one for this team, and the right one for this country," Boehner glumly told his colleagues.

In 2012, political scholars Norman J. Ornstein and Thomas E. Mann wrote that Congress had acquired some of the worst features of the British parliamentary system: "ideologically polarized, internally unified, vehemently oppositional parties." But in the U.S. system, separation of powers between Congress and the White House "makes it extremely difficult for majorities to work their will," they noted.

Since then, the problem has only gotten worse.

Some have suggested that Boehner is effectively running a coalition government of red and blue pragmatists. But that's not quite right. Instead, in parliamentary terms, it's more like a minority government.

Instead of two parties, there are three: the Freedom Caucus,

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com



the Boehner Republicans and the Democrats. To win on any issue, the speaker needs two of those factions. Most of the time, he still depends on the two wings of his own GOP conference. (That's how he won re-election in January, despite 25 Republican dissenters.) But in a pinch, he can strike a temporary alliance with Pelosi.

If we really had a parliamentary system, one of three things might have happened last week: Boehner would have called new elections. (Not available in our system.) Or his party would have ousted him and installed a leader who could hold Republicans together. (There's no such person.) Or the Republicans could split into two mini-parties, as happens in countries like Israel.

That's not going to happen because the two-party system is so deeply rooted. But as a practical matter, it's already occurred.

Boehner is likely to get a lot more practice in running a minority government because the House faces a long list of divisive votes.

First, there's the budget, which Congress is supposed to pass by April 15. That doesn't risk shutting down the government, so Boehner can give the Freedom Caucus free rein. But it's hard to imagine how the conservative House and the more pragmatic Senate GOP are going to agree.

Then there's Obamacare. If the Supreme Court strikes it down, Congress will have to deal with the chaos that ensues.

And in the fall, government spending bills and the federal debt ceiling come up for votes. Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell has already promised that there won't be another government shutdown. But that's a recipe for another Freedom Caucus revolt—and another last-minute deal between Boehner and Pelosi.

It's a system that works, more or less—just as long as the speaker doesn't mind looking foolish now and again. Still, it means Republicans are avoiding disasters rather than passing legislation and showing they deserve to win the White House.

"People expect Republicans in Congress to focus their efforts on proposing and passing policies to improve the economy," Boehner's pollster, David Winston, wrote in an internal GOP memo after the 2014 election. "They didn't vote for Republicans simply to be a check and balance on President Obama."

So far the party has accomplished neither.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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Congressional Republicans should get credit for job growth

Along with low gas prices, a rise in job growth has been the bright spot in the U.S. economy recently. More than one million jobs were added in the previous three months alone. The last time that happened was in 1997. And 2014 saw the most jobs added since 1999.

Typically such surges in employment accompany a recovery from a brutal recession or come in the midst of a robust expansion (like the 1980s or late '90s). But this one features neither. Economic growth has been paltry the last six years, hovering around two percent. Instead of happening for cyclical reasons, this recent job boom has to do with a policy change that President Obama and other Democrats fought hard to prevent: the end of extended unemployment benefits.

At the height of the unemployment crisis in late 2008 and early '09, Congress dramatically expanded the length of jobless benefits. States like New Jersey that had unemployment rates above 8.5 percent were able to pay 99 weeks of benefits—nearly quadruple the 26 weeks typically available in normal times. The duration fell as the jobless rate inched down, but before the additional federal support was cut off at the end of 2013, most states were offering around a year's worth of benefits. (New Jersey offered 63 weeks.) At an average of \$300 a week, this equaled about 133 percent of the federal poverty level—nothing to live on comfortably but nothing to sneeze at either.

This 66-month federal program to extend unemployment insurance was a historical anomaly. None of the previous three recessions had programs lasting even half that duration. The 1981-1982 recession, comparable in length and severity with the 2007-2009 downturn, featured 30 months of federal support. But Obama and congressional Democrats argued that the stubbornly high jobless rate, still above 7.5 percent halfway into 2013, made federal assis-

tance critical for giving people more time to look for a job.

But what if extended benefits had the opposite effect? What if they kept people out of the work force instead of helping them get back in it?

Economist John Mueller of the Ethics and Public Policy Center and others have long argued that extending the duration of unemployment insurance, while undoubtedly motivated by compassion, does more harm than good by freezing the labor market. At 99 or even 52 weeks of benefits, some people who are unemployed become less motivated to undergo the arduous searching-and-matching process of finding work in tough times. This delay in job seeking leads many employers to pare back their openings and hours—and ultimately to operate with less labor. Corporate America proved shrewd at downsizing in the wake of the recession, to the delight of Wall Street but the chagrin of White House economic policymakers.

If emergency unemployment benefits extensions had faded at the end of 2011 rather than 2013, would the unemployment rate have fallen much faster? It sure looks that way.

To be fair, this program was one of several other Obama-era measures that have stifled growth, such as the Federal Reserve's zero-interest-rate policy and Obamacare's 30-hour work week. But rolling it back sooner could have returned the economy to higher job growth in the year or two after the end of the recession rather than three or four years later.

Mueller blames two percentage points of the pre-2014 unemployment rate on extended benefits. Likewise, a new paper from the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) by Marcus Hagedorn, Iourri Manovskii, and Kurt Mitman finds that the end of extended benefits in December 2013 led to a two percent increase in employment in 2014.

At a time when they're short of governing accomplishments, Re-

By JEFF BELL

The Philadelphia Inquirer



Jeff Bell was the 2014 Republican U.S. Senate nominee in New Jersey. He wrote this for The Philadelphia Inquirer.

publicans in Congress should take credit for turning the jobs situation around by finally cutting off long-term unemployment benefits. It wasn't easy. For example Sen. Cory Booker (D., N.J.), my victorious opponent in November's election, made restoring benefits a major theme of his campaign. At this time last year, he made his maiden speech on the Senate floor—traditionally an occasion when a new member has the liberty to talk at length about anything he chooses—on this cause. "There is no disincentive to work in these benefits," Booker said.

That seems hard to believe now, because what else but the end of long-term unemployment insurance would explain the surge in hiring when all other meaningful factors like economic growth, wages, and interest rates have remained stagnant or unchanged? As the NBER paper states, "There were no other policy changes at the turn of 2014 likely to have significant labor market implications."

Simply put, the best year on record for jobs since 1999 happened because the government stopped offering benefits to stay outside of the workforce. Congressional Republicans took heat a year ago to make this policy change. They should now take the credit for its payoff.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Marijuana, medicine, and miracles

My fellow brothers and sisters, have you ever lost a loved one to cancer or some other disease? Have you ever wished that there were something you could have done to help them live longer and still be with you today? Just the thought of fighting and surviving such a deadly disease is nothing short of a miracle. Cancer does not discriminate. Its main mission is to take lives. First, here are some facts: We have one of the highest rates of cancers and other debilitating cases per capita, with cancer, heart attack, and stroke being the Top 3 of the five leading causes of death in the CNMI. In 2005, there were 256 cancer-related cases. Cancer is responsible for nearly 12 percent of deaths in 2005 and is the third leading cause of death among CNMI men and second for women. The fatalities among women is also double that of men. According to a public health official, "every seven weeks a woman is diagnosed with cervical cancer." In 2007, there were 565 medical referrals for off-island treatment, with cancer-related cases totaling 183 or 32 percent of referrals. According to a source, we now have about 300 active cancer-related cases, but the numbers could be higher as there are those that are not registered. The statistics are not only alarming but very disturbing. However, I do find it encouraging seeing family and friends do what they can to help a loved one for their off-island treatment. Some will have fundraisers and roadside solicitations or even mortgage their homes or sell their land to raise money. What is disheartening is when the patient falls short to pay for their first treatment, and even worse, when the patient has to go back for another round of treatment but has more difficulty to be properly taken care of due to the painful treatment process with chemo and lack of money to be treated effectively. With the rise in cancer cases and other life-threatening diseases in the CNMI, including the high cost of conventional treatment or the lack of treatment itself, we are further challenged and obligated as a society to reduce the pain and to find alternative solutions in taking care our loved ones, just so they may be able to be with us a little longer. There are those that continue to march against cancer. And there are patients who have survived and are fight-

ing cancer in a very painful battle. Together, we must unite for a mission to treat and kill diseases, and ultimately, to kill cancer head on with medical marijuana.

Now, we have an opportunity to address a very important issue that focuses on those who are suffering and terminally ill through the medical marijuana bill proposed by the Senate. The Senate bill states: "Medicinal marijuana can be beneficial to those who suffer from illnesses such as cancer, glaucoma, multiple sclerosis, epilepsy among other illnesses." Let us also not forget that marijuana is used to treat chronic pain, arthritis, autism, stroke victims, Parkinson's and Crohn's disease, including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder—a disease that seriously affects many of our returning soldiers from battle, or even ALS (remember the ice bucket challenge?). This is a bill of compassion as it *only* involves the sick and it should be treated as a medical matter alone and not as a social-economic issue as others may expect, perceive, or make it out to be. We simply cannot be ignorant of the matter. All patients in the CNMI will not be able to generate millions of dollars in revenue to justify an economic standpoint. In fact, there are many that are currently struggling with making ends meet, especially when it involves treatment. A sick and dying person couldn't care less about money when their life is at stake, especially when *time is of the essence* and *time is what they do not have*. The main goal of the medical marijuana bill is realistic and logical as it focuses on its intent: to offer an alternative (safer, accessible, and effective) option for treatment (with medical marijuana) and to make sure that those who will provide and use the treatment will be protected (from arrest). Nothing more, nothing less. The global scientific and medical community, and ultimately, the medical marijuana patients themselves keep testifying in favor of the potential benefits of marijuana, which has gained widespread acceptance in other countries and with more U.S. states passing medical marijuana laws. Public support for marijuana as a medicine is rapidly growing as evidenced by the 24 U.S. states, Washington, D.C., and Guam and continues to grow by 2016 with even more states supporting medical marijuana initiatives. You may be surprised to know that the federal government continues to grow and supply medical marijuana to a select number of patients for the past 37 years through the Federal Compassionate Use Investigative New Drug program. By this program alone, they have acknowledged marijuana's medical value. Marijuana has a very low toxicity level and is non-fatal. In fact, marijuana is considered "to be the safest therapeutic substance known to man" to alleviate pain and treat

those suffering from serious medical conditions with little to no side effects. It is with this evidence that we must take a chance in making a positive difference in the lives of the sick.

Fortunately, we will have a chance to speak at the public hearings on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan. Before the hearings, it is best we educate ourselves a little on how marijuana is related to the sick to gain a better understanding of the medical marijuana bill being proposed and its purpose. This will allow us to ask the better questions or to state our case. Please, Google "cannabinoids and cancer" and the "endocannabinoid system" and you will *see* the research and findings of what marijuana can do to treat a person's suffering and possibly cure not just cancer but other serious medical conditions. In fact, our bodies create cannabinoids through the endocannabinoid system, which strengthens and regulates our immune system to fight infections and diseases. Cannabinoids is what we use to heal and restore balance. However, environmental factors and today's lifestyle have greatly contributed to the pollution and weakening of our system to heal itself quickly, which is why people fall victim to life-threatening diseases. It is also a fact that *marijuana is the only plant in the world that produces cannabinoids*. Cannabinoids is what our bodies and our lives depend on. It is with this evidence that we must use this knowledge and apply it to our livelihood, especially to treat the sick and dying.

I always ask people who are confused about medical marijuana: If costly and painful modern treatment and medicine does little to nothing to help your loved one's pain and suffering, and you were given an option that is safer and beneficial, and that may possibly "cure" their disease, what would you really do? Would you base your decision on your belief or medical science? Would you deny them their wish to live a healthier, longer, and happier life? If we simply deny them this wish, then we are ultimately granting them a death sentence. We should not allow this to happen. We will not allow this to happen. We can *never* allow this to happen.

As a compassionate society, we must help end suffering and save lives. By doing so, we will have our loved ones around longer—to live, laugh, and love. Isn't this what we wish for after all? Let us not only think with our minds but to give with our hearts in granting the sick and dying patients their God-given right to life. With medical marijuana, let us grant them their wish for a second chance to live again. *Biba Marianas!*

Gerry Palacios Hemley

Garapan, Saipan

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
East winds 10 to 20 mph.

▲85° ▼76°

WEDNESDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
East winds 10 to 20 mph.

▲86° ▼75°

THURSDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲86° ▼75°

FRIDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲86° ▼75°

SATURDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲86° ▼75°

Yesterday's Satellite Image

PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2015
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Bavi (03W) is centered 325 miles west of Guam near 13N140E moving west at 22 mph with maximum sustained winds of 50 mph. Heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms are found mainly northwest of the center of Bavi between 18N and 14N from 138E to 142E. Otherwise, scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring between 19N and 11N from 133E to 143E. Scattered showers extend southeastward from Bavi over Guam and Rota within 90 miles of a line from 16N143E to 8N148E. For more information on Tropical Storm Bavi, refer to warnings issued by The Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and public advisories issued by The National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. A frontal boundary runs west-southwestward from 25N180E to 18N153E then turns westward to 18N143E. West of 164E extensive cloudiness and scattered showers are located along and up to 400 miles north of the front. East of 164E, cloudiness and patchy showers are present along and up 350 miles north of the front. Converging east to southeast winds are triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms east and north of Pohnpei within 100 miles of a line from 18N153E to 6N161E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over the Marshall Islands within 110 miles of a line from 11N161E to 7N171E to 9N180E. Isolated thunderstorms are present southeast of Majuro between 6N and 3N from 172E to 178E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia			
Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Palau	Cloudy	▲86	▼76
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼79
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼78
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79

Around the Globe			
Auckland	Thundershowers	▲70	▼55
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲63	▼35
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼67
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼67
London	Showers	▲52	▼38
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼63
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼66
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼47
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼72
New York	Sunny	▲49	▼33
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲57	▼44
Paris	Sunny	▲59	▼36
Pusan	Showers	▲58	▼31
Rome	Sunny	▲59	▼42
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼44
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲70	▼52
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲49	▼28
Tokyo	Sunny	▲57	▼39
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼52

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
6:41 AM	Today	Hight Tide:	1.8 Feet
12:19 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
5:38 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	6:24 AM	6:28 PM
Wednesday	6:24 AM	6:28 PM
Thursday	6:23 AM	6:28 PM
Friday	6:22 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	6:22 AM	6:28 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	3:20 AM	3:16P M
Wednesday	4:13 AM	4:17 PM
Thursday	5:05 AM	5:19 PM
Friday	5:56 AM	6:20 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	7:22 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 5, 2015

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3	UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota	UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5	UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4	UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5	UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5	UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7	UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7	UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)				PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	1:10am+1	2, 6 via NRT	DL298	4:35am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily	DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ6063	3:20am	7:10am	3, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily	OZ6053	8:50pm	2:10am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 4, 5, 7	MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1,5 via GUM
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM	UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM	UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM	UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
				UA184/5077	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	5 via GUM
				UA184/5041	10:59pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
				UA184/5077	10:59pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
				UA184/5043	10:59pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM	OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM	UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM	UA180/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM	UA180/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
				UA180/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
				UA180/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
				UA180/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.											
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			SAIPAN TO TINIAN			SAIPAN TO ROTA					
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY			
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat			
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat			
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	ROTA TO SAIPAN					
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY			
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat			
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily	4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat			
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily						
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily						
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily						
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily						
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily						
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily						
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily									

Business

Egypt basks in world support at investor conference

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt (AP)—Egypt's president claimed broad support from the international community for his vision of the future on Sunday, in a boisterous speech to an investor conference that saw billions pledged to boost an economy left battered by four years of turmoil following a popular uprising.

A jubilant Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi acknowledged Egypt's road to recovery will be long and costly, but described the

three-day summit as an overwhelming success, recognizing companies and governments for their vote of confidence.

"I would like to thank you all who came to the event—envoys, deputies or prime ministers, and of course monarchs and kings and princes," he told a packed auditorium in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, where crowds gave him several standing ovations. "You have no idea how happy you've made the Egyptian people."

At the meeting's closing, a teary-eyed Prime Minister Ibrahim Mahlab said the conference had netted \$36.2 billion in investments that had been signed and were ready to be implemented, thanking allies for the support. Dozens of town residents drove up to the conference center as the meeting closed, waving Egyptian flags, honking their horns in celebration, and causing a brief traffic jam.

Many questions had lingered in the run-up to the conference—whether it would meet expectations for billions in investment, whether companies would be ready to overlook political risks in a country with a lingering militant insurgency, and whether political leaders would be willing to set aside concerns over human rights and vocally back the leadership of el-Sissi, who overthrew his Islamist predecessor in 2013.

"It's a great show of support from investors and world leaders, and an excellent way to hold the government to account for the ambitious policies it has announced," said Angus Blair of investment advisory firm Signet.

Besides major Gulf backers United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, who kicked off the conference by announcing over \$12 billion in aid and investment, Western powers including the United States, France, Britain and Italy also praised the steps el-Sissi has



AP
Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi speaks during the final day of a major economic conference that has injected billions of dollars' worth of aid and investment in his country, in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, Sunday, March 15, 2015.

dred kilometers (miles) to the north—a long-running insurgency that picked up after Morsi's overthrow.

In recent weeks, militants have shifted their focus to a campaign of small bombings aimed at local and foreign business interests in Cairo and other cities, including an American fast food chain, a branch of an Emirati bank, French supermarket chain Carrefour and foreign mobile phone service companies.

While the government's fierce crackdown on Islamist opponents has killed hundreds, landed some 20,000 people in prison, and brought heavy criticism over the last 20 months, none of that prevented global players from attending the conference, reaffirming their commitments to the country and boosting investments.

"With 22 heads of state and 3,500 delegates, it's the largest summit of CEOs and world leaders I've ever seen," said event organizer Richard Attias, who has also arranged the annual World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

taken over the past year, a message that was echoed by those from international institutions like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

El-Sissi has staked his legitimacy on fixing the economy and restoring security to the Arab world's most populous country, and the three-day conference had sought a clear sign of international confidence in its political stability, after a 2011 revolt that overthrew longtime autocrat Hosni Mubarak, fol-

lowed by military rule and the one-year reign of an elected but divisive president, the Islamist Mohamed Morsi.

Since Morsi's ouster, led by then-army chief el-Sissi, the government has cracked down hard on his Muslim Brotherhood, other Islamists and secular and liberal activists, with hundreds killed and thousands imprisoned.

The country is also fighting Islamic militants in a corner of the Sinai Peninsula a few hun-

Fight over Keystone XL project doesn't stall pipeline boom

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a far corner of North Dakota, just a few hundred miles from the proposed path of the Keystone XL pipeline, 84,000 barrels of crude oil per day recently began flowing through a new line that connects the state's sprawling oil fields to an oil hub in Wyoming.

In West Texas, engineers activated a new pipeline that cuts diagonally across the state to deliver crude from the oil-rich Permian Basin to refineries near Houston. And in a string of towns in Kansas, Iowa and South Dakota, local government officials are scrutinizing the path of pipeline extensions that would pass nearby.

While the Keystone project awaits a final decision, scenes like these are unfolding almost every week in lesser-known developments that have quietly added more than 11,600 miles of pipeline to the nation's domestic oil network.

Overall, the network has increased by almost a quarter in the last decade. And the work dwarfs Keystone. About 3.3 million barrels per day of capacity have been added since 2012 alone—five times more oil than the Canada-to-Texas Keystone line could carry if it's ever built.

The pipeline build-out provides a little noticed counterpoint to the fierce political battle being waged over the 1,179-mile TransCanada project, which is still in limbo seven years after it was proposed. During the long wait for Keystone, the petroleum industry has pushed relentlessly everywhere else to get oil to market more efficiently, and its adversaries have been unable to stop other major pipelines.

"There's been a lot of growth—we're really positive on it in general," said Rob DeSai, an equity analyst with Edward Jones who focuses on the energy industry. "The oil that's being produced in the U.S., in many cases, it's basically in the middle of nowhere. You need new infrastructure to get that oil to market."

Environmental groups have fought Keystone by citing the risk of leaks and the climate-change consequences of fossil fuels. They hope to make cleaner energy options more appealing. Their success has inspired local protest groups to challenge more projects.

But those efforts, while slowing a few pipelines, have not stopped any because the regulatory path is smoother

when a pipeline does not cross an international border, as Keystone would.

In Minnesota, local opponents succeeded last year in getting state regulators to consider rerouting a 616-mile pipeline proposed by Toronto-based Enbridge around pristine lakes and forests, delaying it for at least a year.

More typical, though, was an Enbridge project to double the capacity of a 285-mile stretch of pipeline in Michigan. Groups like the Michigan Coalition Against Tar Sands fought the proposal, citing a spill in 2010 that caused serious environmental damage. But the Michigan Public Service Commission ruled the project acceptable, and the expansion went ahead.

In Texas, Magellan's Bridge-Tex Pipeline, designed to take up to 300,000 barrels of crude per day from Colorado City to refineries in Houston, was recently completed over landowners' protests about its path. Local officials cleared the way for the company to use the state's eminent-domain law to condemn land for the pipeline. It came online last year.

Some environmentalists acknowledge that changing a pipeline's route often may be

the best they can hope for.

"I'm telling people I don't think it's going to stop," said Paul Stolen, a retired state biologist who has been working with groups opposing the Enbridge project in Minnesota. "I think it's going to escalate and get bigger."

In most states, opponents have to prove a project does not serve the public interest or poses a clear environmental threat.

In states that depend on energy jobs, regulators tend to be receptive to the industry. Supporters also argue that transporting oil by pipeline is safer than by train, noting recent accidents and spills.

Since 2012, more than 50 pipeline projects have been approved, completed or are under development, including the just finished 600-mile Enbridge Flanagan South line, which runs through four states.

The recent surge in oil production, from roughly 5 million barrels a day in 2008 to 8.9 million barrels in 2014, has pushed new webs of pipe across regions that until recently had few. Dozens of new lines ranging up to 700 miles connect drill sites in the Upper Midwest to refineries in the region or to hubs in Oklahoma and along the Gulf Coast.

Work for a toxic organization? Get out

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By **MARIE G. MCINTYRE**
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at <http://www.yourofficecoach.com>, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.



Q: My manager is the boss from hell. "Cheryl" chews out employees on a regular basis, blames the staff for her mistakes, and takes credit for others' accomplishments. She disagrees with everything I say and rejects any idea that I propose. I believe the only reason I'm still employed is that my results make her look good.

All the executives above Cheryl have a similar leadership style, so they aren't any help. The real surprise is that this is a nonprofit religious organization. It's hard to believe that a church group would tolerate such an evil manager. I plan to quit as soon as I find another position, but that hasn't been easy. Do you have any advice?

A: Sadly, history has clearly demonstrated that having a religious affiliation does not necessarily make one a good person. Although spiritual leaders might logically be expected to become inspirational managers, that is not always the case. So Cheryl is not an anomaly.

Based on your description, however, this problem seems to extend well beyond your nasty boss. If everyone in management shares these traits, the higher-ups may be trying to replicate themselves by promoting people with similar personalities. In that case, you are probably working in a toxic organization.

Since this poisonous culture is unlikely to change, your best hope is to accelerate the search for a more normal place to work. In the meantime, reduce your stress by disengaging emotionally. Focus on your tasks, avoid arguing with your boss, and don't

bother making suggestions that will inevitably be rejected. Remember that as soon as you exit this sick little world, nothing these people do will matter in the least.

Q: Although I was initially excited about my first job, I am now concerned that it may hurt my professional future. After finishing college, I joined a major corporation and was placed in a three-year rotational program for new graduates. Every year, we work in a different functional area.

My first assignment was in marketing, and I feel sure that I want to make this my career. However, I am still expected to spend two years in other departments. By the time I can return to marketing, I will have fallen behind my peers and may only be qualified for an entry-level job. What do you think I should do?

A: The odds are good that you aren't the first person to face this dilemma, so you should have a talk with the person who runs the rotational program. If you feel certain that marketing is your destiny, the program may have a way to accommodate your needs, such as allowing you to apply for marketing positions as they become available.

But if you are locked into the rotation and wish to remain with this company, don't despair. Experience in multiple departments will enable you to view the organization from different perspectives and understand the bigger picture. From management's point of view, that might very well make you a more well-rounded applicant.

Nation

Wealthy eccentric says in HBO finale he 'killed them all'

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The arrest of Robert Durst, a wealthy eccentric linked to two killings and his wife's disappearance, came on Sunday just before the finale in an HBO show about his life in which he said he "killed them all."

Durst was arrested on a murder warrant just before Sunday evening's finale of an HBO serial documentary about his links to three sensational killings.

In the finale, Durst was asked about similarities in handwriting in a letter he wrote and another linked to one of the killings. Later, filmmakers said Durst wore his microphone into the bathroom.

What followed was a bizarre rambling in which Durst said, apparently to himself, "There it is. You're caught" and "What the hell did I do? Killed them all of course."

The show ended, and it wasn't clear whether producers confronted Durst about the secretly recorded words, or what Durst meant by them.

Durst was arrested by FBI agents Saturday at a New Orleans hotel, on a warrant from Los Angeles for the murder of a mobster's daughter 15 years ago.

Durst was ordered held without bond pending another hearing Monday. His lawyer, Chip Lewis, said Durst will agree to be taken to Los Angeles to face the first-degree murder charge.

Durst participated in the documentary, giving an extensive interview to filmmaker Andrew Jarecki for "The Jinx: The Life and Deaths of Robert Durst." Lewis said nothing his client revealed changes his innocence.

"It's all about Hollywood now," Lewis told The Associated Press.

A call to Lewis seeking comment about Sunday's final episode hasn't been returned.

Durst's estranged and fearful relatives thanked authorities for tracking him down.

"We are relieved and also grateful to everyone who assisted in the arrest of Robert Durst. We hope he will finally be held accountable for all he has done," said his brother, Douglas Durst, in a statement.

Durst, 71, has always maintained his innocence in the 2000 murder of Susan Berman, whose father was an associate of Las Vegas mobsters Bugsy Siegel and Meyer Lansky.

Berman, 55, a writer who became Durst's spokeswoman, was killed at her home near Beverly Hills with a bullet to the back of her head as New York investigators prepared to question her in the unsolved 1982 disappearance of Durst's wife, Kathleen.

"The jig is up," said former Westchester County District Attorney Jeanine Pirro, who had hoped Berman would help solve the disappearance. The documentary uncovered "evidence that law enforcement in three states wasn't able to unearth," added Pirro, who now hosts Justice with Judge Jeanine on Fox News.

The climax of last week's episode revealed a hand-written address on a letter, recovered by the slain woman's relative, that Durst had sent to Berman. The handwriting seems virtually identical to an anonymous

letter alerting Beverly Hills police to a "cadaver" in Berman's home. Even the word "Beverly" is misspelled as "Beverley" on

both documents.

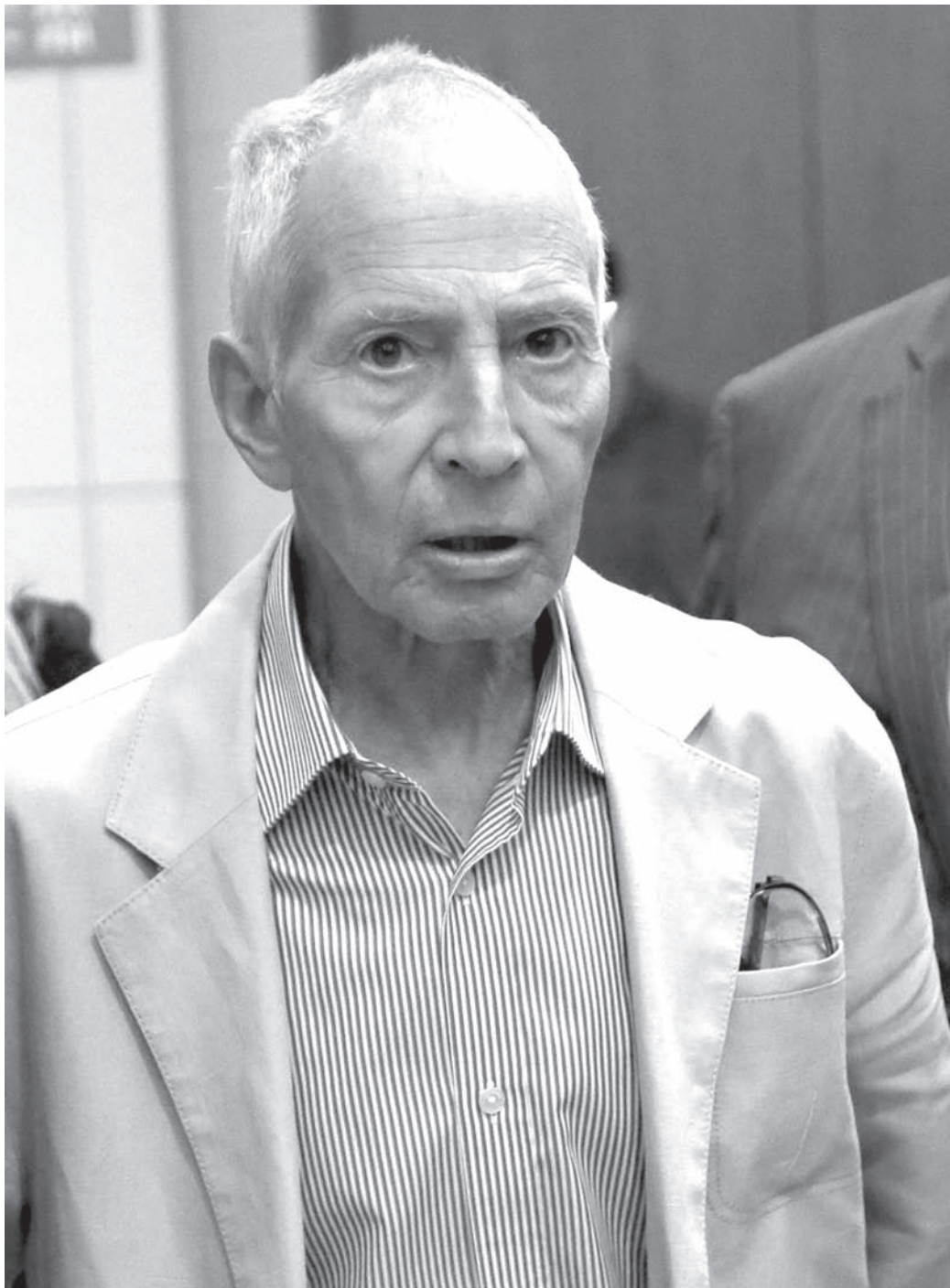
Durst observes in the documentary that only Berman's killer could have sent the letter

to police.

Jarecki is then shown putting the other letter in a safe deposit box.

The episode didn't indicate whether Jarecki shared that earlier letter with the authorities, but the Los Angeles Police said the arrest resulted from "investigative leads and additional evidence that has come to light in the last year."

Lewis said he didn't know if police had previously examined the newly revealed letter, but said Durst had provided handwriting samples to LAPD in the past.



In this Aug. 15, 2014 file photo, New York City real estate heir Robert Durst leaves a Houston courtroom. Durst was arrested in New Orleans on an extradition warrant to Los Angeles on Saturday, March 14, 2015.

Oklahoma is latest to address race problems at fraternities

WASHINGTON (AP)—Their reputations sullied by race-tainted incidents, many colleges are clamping down on campus fraternities. Despite some swift and tough actions by schools—and in some cases, public humiliation—episodes such as the racist chants by members of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon chapter at the University of Oklahoma keep surfacing.

In recent years, numerous other fraternities have been suspended and students expelled from school for racially tinged parties or behavior, such as hanging nooses or shouting racial profanities.

"All too often the outcry has been, 'Look at those bad apples we need to root out,'" said Nolan L. Cabrera, a professor in the Center for the Study of Higher Education at the University of Arizona. "When in fact the conversation we need to have is, 'Why is this occurring on such a widespread level throughout the country?'"

Many incidents come to light after the students themselves post pictures or videos online, drawing public attention; others are reported by onlookers or whistleblowers.

Either way, "it's hard to ignore a current on many, many campuses of behaviors that are just offensive and disgusting at the far end and maybe just lack common sense at the other end," said Kevin Kruger, president of NASPA: Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, a professional organization.

For example, Sigma Alpha Epsilon suspended all activity at Clemson University in South Carolina in December after white students dressed as gang members at a "Cripmas" party. That same month Phi Delta Theta halted its chapter at the University of Pennsylvania for issuing a holiday card with members posing with what it called a Beyonce sex doll.

Man, 20, charged with shooting 2 officers in Ferguson

CLAYTON, Mo. (AP)—A 20-year-old man charged Sunday with shooting two police officers watching over a demonstration outside the Ferguson Police Department had attended a protest there earlier that night but told investigators he wasn't targeting the officers, authorities said.

St. Louis County Prosecutor Robert McCulloch said suspect Jeffrey Williams told authorities he was firing at someone with whom he was in a dispute.

"We're not sure we completely buy that part of it," McCulloch said, adding that there might have been other people in a vehicle Williams is accused of firing from.

Williams is charged with two counts of first-degree assault, one count of firing a weapon from a vehicle and three counts of armed criminal

action. McCulloch said the investigation is ongoing.

The police officers were shot early Thursday as a late-night demonstration began to break up following the resignation of Ferguson Police Chief Tom Jackson in the wake of a Justice Department report that found widespread racial bias in the police department.

"He was out there earlier that evening as part of the demonstration," McCulloch said of Williams.

But several activists who've been involved in the protests since the Aug. 9 fatal shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown by a Ferguson police officer told The Associated Press they were not familiar with Williams.

Williams used a handgun that matches the shell casings at the scene, McCulloch said. He also said tips from the pub-

lic led to the arrest.

Williams, who St. Louis County Police Chief Jon Belmar said is black, is being held on \$300,000 bond. County police spokesman Brian Schellman said he didn't know whether Williams had an attorney or when he'd appear in court. A message left at the St. Louis County Justice Center was not immediately returned.

Brittany Ferrell, 26, a protest leader with the group Millennial Activists United, had just left a meeting with other leaders Sunday when word of the arrest circulated. She said no one in the group knew Williams, and they checked with other frequent protesters—who also hadn't heard of him.

Ferrell suspected McCulloch tried to cast him as a protester to reflect negatively on the movement.

ACROSS THE NATION

Boston breaks seasonal snowfall record with 108.6 inches

BOSTON (AP)—Boston's made history by having the snowiest, and probably most miserable, season since 1872. The official measurement of 108.6 inches at Logan International Airport Sunday night topped a season record of 107.9 inches set in 1995-96, according to the National Weather Service in Taunton, Massachusetts. "Superbowls, World Series, Stanley Cups, and snowfall records," Mayor Martin J. Walsh tweeted. "We are truly a title city. There will be no parade." The final 2.9 inches came after a record-setting monthly snowfall of 64.9 inches in February. The worst previous single month was January 2005 when 43.3 inches fell. This official winter snowfall, measured from December through February this year, was 99.4 inches. That was the snowiest for the winter period, beating 91.5 inches in 1993-94. The season snowfall record is measured from July 1 through June 30.

Nevada newspaper where Mark Twain got start is revived

RENO, Nev. (AP)—The historic Nevada newspaper where Mark Twain cut his journalistic teeth is back in publication for the first time in three decades, and its owners plan to uphold tradition by offering more than just real news. The Territorial Enterprise was revived as an online and monthly print publication this week by Capitol Publishing Group, the parent company of a weekly newspaper in Jefferson City, Missouri, that focuses on politics and government. Samuel Clemens, Twain's real name, assumed his pen name and developed his penchant for western tall tales when he was a reporter from 1862 to 1864 at the feisty newspaper in Virginia City, about 20 miles southeast of Reno. The Territorial Enterprise, based by its new owners in nearby Carson City, plans to feature yarns in keeping with Twain's spirit, and cover politics, government, business and culture across the state.

Asia

Institute: China now world's third-biggest arms exporter

BEIJING (AP)—China has overtaken Germany to become the world's third-biggest arms exporter, although its 5 percent of the market remains small compared to the combined 58 percent of exports from the U.S. and Russia, a new study says.

China's share of the global arms market rose 143 percent during the years from 2010-2014, a period during which the total volume of global arms transfers rose by 16 percent over the previous five years, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute said in a report released Monday.

Its share of the world market was up from 3 percent in the 2009-2014 period, when China was ranked ninth among exporters of warplanes, ships, side arms and other weaponry, said the institute, known as SIPRI.

The data show the growing strength of China's domestic arms industry, now producing fourth-generation fighter jets, navy frigates and a wide-range of relatively cheap, simple and reliable smaller weapons used in conflicts around the globe.

China has long been a major importer of weapons, mainly from Russia and Ukraine, but its soaring economy and the copying of foreign technology has largely reversed the trend, except for the most cutting-edge designs and sophisticated parts such as aircraft engines.



In this Nov. 21, 2010, file photo, Pakistan Air Force personnel sit in front of their JF-17 jet fighter at the 8th China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition (Zhuhai Airshow) in Zhuhai, southern coast of Guangdong province, China.

China supplies weapons to 35 countries, led by Pakistan, Bangladesh and Myanmar, SIPRI said.

Chinese sales included those of armored vehicles and transport and trainer aircraft to Venezuela, three frigates to Algeria,

anti-ship missiles to Indonesia and unmanned combat aerial vehicles, or drones, to Nigeria, which is battling the Boko Haram insurgency in its north.

China's comparative advantages include its low prices, easy financing and friendliness toward authoritarian govern-

ments, said Philip Saunders, director of the Center for the Study of Chinese Military Affairs at the U.S. National Defense University.

"Generally speaking, China offers medium quality weapons systems at affordable prices, a combination attractive to cash-

strapped militaries in South Asia, Africa and Latin America," Saunders said.

Notable successes include a co-production deal with Pakistan to produce the JF-17 fighter, widespread sales of the basic but effective C-802 anti-ship cruise missile, and an agree-

ment to sell the HQ-9 air defense missile system to Turkey that has run into controversy over its incompatibility with NATO weapons systems.

China also has exploited niche markets such as North Korea and Iran that the West won't sell to, emphasizing its attractiveness to impoverished countries and pariah states, said Ian Easton, research fellow at The Project 2049 Institute, an Arlington, Virginia-based Asian security think tank.

Both those U.S. foes appear to have received satellite jamming and cyber warfare capabilities from China, along with technologies to break into private communications and spy on government opponents, Easton said.

"All of these sales should be very disconcerting to American policymakers and military leaders," he said, calling China's rise to the third-place spot among exporters a "disturbing development" that could threaten the security of the U.S. and its allies.

China also offers leading-edge drone technology at competitive prices. One model, known variously as the Yilong, Wing Loong or Pterodactyl, has become especially popular with foreign buyers, although Chinese secrecy surrounding such sales makes it difficult to know how many are in service and where.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Suicide bombers kill 15 people outside Pakistani churches

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP)—A pair of suicide bombers attacked two churches in the eastern Pakistani city of Lahore on Sunday as worshippers prayed inside—killing 15 people in the latest assault against religious minorities in this increasingly fractured country, officials said. A spokesman for the Pakistani Taliban, Ahsanullah Ahsan, claimed responsibility for the assault in a statement emailed to reporters, and warned, "There will be more of such attacks." Afterward, an angry Christian mob blocked a major highway, ransacked a bus terminal and burned two people to death who they suspected of being involved in the attacks. Christian demonstrators blocked roads in other major Pakistani cities as well.

2 Indonesia planes crash at air show practice; pilots safe

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Two planes from an Indonesian acrobatic air team clipped wings and crashed Sunday during a practice session ahead of an air show in Malaysia, officials said. All four pilots ejected and were safe. The

pilots from both planes ejected from their aircraft after the jets went out of control and landed safely with their parachutes, said a Malaysian defense official who declined to be named because he wasn't authorized to speak to the media. There were no reports of deaths or serious injuries on the ground. A house and a car caught fire due to falling debris from the plane, the organizers of the air show, held on northern Langkawi island, said in a statement.

Ex-top China military official, facing bribery probe, dies

BEIJING (AP)—The Chinese military's former second-highest ranking officer, Xu Caihou, who had been under investigation for alleged bribe-taking and brokering of promotions, has died in a hospital of cancer, the state Xinhua News Agency reported early Monday. He was 71. A former deputy chairman of the ruling Communist Party's Central Military Commission, Xu was the most senior military figure detained in a sweeping crackdown on corruption within the party launched by President Xi Jinping. Xu died of advanced bladder cancer that had spread throughout his body and of multiple organ failure, Xinhua said.

China lashes out at US 'pirate-style sense of insecurity'

BEIJING (AP)—China's state news agency accused the U.S. on Saturday of having a "pirate-style sense of insecurity" in response to recent comments from Washington expressing concern over Beijing's territorial claims in the disputed South China Sea.

The Xinhua News Agency took issue with remarks by U.S. State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki on Monday that Chinese land reclamation and construction work on disputed South China Sea islands were "fueling greater anxiety within the region about China's intentions."

Washington said it will continue to raise its concerns with China and urged all parties to avoid destabilizing activities.

"As we've said many times, we encourage all claimants to pursue peaceful and diplomatic approaches to maritime and territorial disputes in the South China Sea," Psaki told reporters at a daily briefing.

In its response, Xinhua labeled Psaki's comments "strikingly biased and by no means conducive to solving the disputes and bolstering peace and stability."

"The United States has once

again violated its commitment to not holding (a) position or taking sides on the South China Sea issue, and its so-called concerns about China's 'threat' serve only to reveal its pirate-style sense of insecurity," said the commentary, signed by Xinhua reporter Zhang Ning

The language used exemplified the more caustic tone taken over recent months by the Communist Party controlled media in defending China's territorial claims and rejecting Western concepts of democracy and civil liberties. The commentary appeared only on Xinhua's Eng-

lish-language service directed at foreign audiences.

China says it has historical claims to a huge swath of the South Sea China that overlaps with the claims of several neighbors including Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and the Philippines, and constantly accuses the U.S. and its powerful navy of meddling in the dispute.

The U.S. says it takes no sides on the sovereignty issue, but has a national interest in ensuring the peaceful resolution of disputes and safety of navigation through the crucial shipping routes that crisscross the region.

Filipino troops capture militant who coddled terror suspects

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine troops have captured the leader of a Muslim rebel group in the south who has been linked to bombings and a beheading and accused of protecting two terror suspects wanted by the United States, officials said Monday.

Army and police forces arrested Mohammad Ali Tambako and five of his men late Sunday while the militants were traveling in a motorcycle sidecar taxi to a seaport in southern General Santos city. Three grenades and two guns were seized from the mili-

itants, who did not put up a fight, according to a police report.

Tambako, who formed the group Justice for Islamic Movement with about 70 armed fighters last year, has been suspected by the military of giving refuge in his southern stronghold to top Malaysian terror suspect Zulkifli bin Hir, also known as Marwan, and long-wanted Filipino bombing suspect Abdul Basit Usman.

The United States and the Philippines have offered huge rewards for the capture and prosecution of Marwan and Usman. Marwan was report-

edly killed in a Jan. 25 raid by Filipino police anti-terror commandos in the marshy heartland of the country's south. The FBI said in February that DNA analysis suggested that Marwan was the militant killed by the Filipino commandos but it added additional tests were needed to confirm his death.

Around that time, 42 elite policemen also were killed in gunbattles with different Muslim rebel groups in the far-flung region, the largest single-day government combat loss in recent memory. That prompted the

military last month to launch an offensive that has killed about 100 suspected insurgents and led to the capture of Tambako.

Tambako's former armed group, the hardline Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Movement, expelled him last year after his men beheaded a farmer in an attack on a Christian community in the south. That prompted him to form his own rebel band, which has been linked to several deadly bombings and attacks, including the clashes with police commandos, military officials said.

World

US, Iran press for nuke pact; lesser announcement on table?

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP)—The United States and Iran plunged back into negotiation Sunday, hoping to end once and for all a decades-long standoff that has raised the specter of an Iranian nuclear arsenal, a new atomic arms race in the Middle East and even a U.S. or Israeli military intervention. Two weeks out from a deadline for a framework accord, some officials said the awesomeness of the diplomatic task meant negotiators would likely settle for an announcement that they've made enough progress to justify further talks.

Such a declaration would hardly satisfy American critics of the Obama administration's diplomatic outreach to Iran and hardliners in the Islamic Republic, whose rumblings

Iran nuclear talks

2003: Iran issues a proposal to the U.S. for negotiations on nuclear weapons and energy. The Bush administration dismisses the proposal.

Jan. 17, 2005: Iran submits a proposal to the EU3, promising not to pursue nuclear weapons and proposing cooperation on regional security and counter-terrorism.

June 2006: China, Russia and the U.S. join the EU3 (P5+1) to propose negotiations on more cooperation on nuclear energy in exchange for suspension of its fuel enrichment. Iran rejected the proposal.

June 2009: Iran requests assistance with a research reactor. In response, the U.S. proposed a fuel swap agreement, with Russia and France enriching uranium for Iran. Iran rejects the proposal and steps up uranium enrichment.

2012: The P5+1 and Iran renew negotiations, discussing a step-by-step process to build trust.

2014: The temporary agreement is extended to November and then to June 2015. All nations involved have been complying with the requirements of the agreement.



Source: Arms Control Association, U.S. Senate

Graphic: Tribune News Service

hundreds of centrifuges that are used for enriching uranium—material that can be used in a nuclear warhead. Previously, the Iranians had accepted the plant would be transformed into one solely for scientific research, that diplomat and others have said.

The deal that had been taking shape would see Iran freeze its nuclear program for at least a decade, with restrictions then gradually lifted over a period of perhaps the following five years. Washington and other world powers would similarly scale back sanctions that have crippled the Iranian economy in several phases. Iran says it is only interested in peaceful energy generation and medical research, but much of the world has suspected it of maintaining covert nuclear weapons ambitions. And the U.S. and its ally Israel have at various times threatened military action if Iran's program advances too far.

Speaking Sunday on CBS News, Kerry said most of the differences between Iran and the negotiating group of the U.S., Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia were "political," not technical. He didn't elaborate, but political matters tend to include levels of inspections, Iran's past military work linked to its nuclear program and how quickly to scale back sanctions. Technical matters refer, for example, to how many centrifuges Iran can maintain, what types of those machines and how much plutonium it would be allowed to produce from a planned heavy water reactor.

Putin: Russia prepared raising nuclear readiness over Crimea

MOSCOW (AP)—Russia was ready to bring its nuclear weapons into a state of alert during last year's tensions over the Crimean Peninsula and the overthrow of Ukraine's president, President Vladimir Putin said in remarks aired on Sunday.

Putin also expanded on a previous admission that the well-armed forces in unmarked uniforms who took control of Ukrainian military facilities in Crimea were Russian soldiers.

Putin's comments, in a documentary being shown on state TV, highlight the extent to which alarm spread in Russia in the weeks following Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich's ouster in February 2014 after months of street protests that turned increasingly violent.

The documentary comes as speculation swirls about Putin's

10-day absence from public view. On Monday, he will meet with the president of Kyrgyzstan in an event covered by the news media, which would be his first appearance before journalists since March 5.

After Yanukovich fled Kiev, eventually surfacing in Russia, separatist sentiment soared in Crimea, the Black Sea peninsula dominated by ethnic Russians.

Russian forces took control of Ukrainian military facilities on the peninsula and a referendum on secession was hastily called. The referendum, which was widely denounced in the West as illegitimate, reportedly brought overwhelming support for secession. Russia annexed Crimea on March 19, 2014.

In the documentary, which marks a year since the referen-

dum, Putin says of the nuclear preparedness, "We were ready to do this ... (Crimea) is our historical territory. Russian people live there. They were in danger. We cannot abandon them."

The comments were reported on the state broadcaster's website after its transmission in the Russian Far East and before it appeared on the air in Moscow.

Putin said his plans for a Crimean operation started after Yanukovich fled.

"We never thought about severing Crimea from Ukraine until the moment that these events began, the government overthrow," he said, repeating Russia's contention that Yanukovich was the victim of a coup.

He said he called for a "closed opinion poll" of sentiments among Crimeans about whether to remain in Ukraine. He didn't

give details as to how this survey was conducted, but said "it became clear that 75 percent of the general population desired to join Russia."

Russia initially denied that the unmarked forces who took control in Crimea were Russian, but Putin later admitted they were. In the Sunday documentary, he said he ordered the defense ministry to deploy military intelligence special forces, marines and paratroopers "under the cover of strengthening the protection of our military facilities."

Russia's Black Sea Fleet is based in Crimea; it retained the bases after the collapse of the Soviet Union under an agreement with Ukraine.

have grown more vociferous and threatening as the parties have narrowed many of their differences. And, officially, the United States and its partners insist their eyes are on a much bigger prize: "A deal that would protect the world," Secretary of State John Kerry emphasized this weekend, "from the threat that a nuclear-armed Iran could pose."

Yet as Kerry arrived in Switzerland for several days of discussions with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, no one was promising the breakthrough. One diplomat said new differences surfaced only in the last negotiating round of what has been a 15-month process, including a sudden Iranian demand that a nuclear facility buried deep underground be allowed to keep

Kerry would be willing to talk with Syria's Assad

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said he would be willing to talk with Syrian President Bashar Assad to help broker a political resolution to the country's civil war.

Kerry said in an interview with CBS News that the U.S. is pushing for Assad to seriously discuss a transition strategy to help end Syria's four-year conflict, which has killed more than 220,000 people, given rise to the Islamic State group and destabilized the wider Middle East.

"We have to negotiate in the end," Kerry said. "What we're pushing for is to get him to come and do that, and it may require that there be increased pressure on him of various kinds."

The Obama administration has long pushed for a political settlement to the Syrian crisis, and helped bring the Assad government and the Western-

backed opposition to the negotiating table in early 2014.

Those talks collapsed without making any headway, however, and there has been no serious effort as of yet to revive them.

"We've made it very clear to people that we are looking at increased steps that can help bring about that pressure," Kerry said, without elaborating on what those steps might be.

Syria's state news agency reported Kerry's comments in full. It also said Damascus has called for a political solution before, and accused the U.S. of undermining such efforts, militarizing the conflict and supporting terrorists.

The U.S. has provided financial support to the opposition Syrian National Coalition, and non-lethal assistance to mainstream armed rebel groups that are opposed to Assad.

Since the beginning of the conflict, the Syrian government

repeatedly and publicly agreed to international peace efforts while simultaneously ignoring the commitments it has made under them.

It also has refused to discuss any proposal to usher Assad out of power.

Assad's Western-backed opponents, for their part, maintain that Assad can have no role in the country's future, and that any negotiated settlement must be based on the so-called Geneva roadmap, which envisions a political transition in Syria toward democracy by the formation of a transitional governing body with full executive powers.

The latest attempt to bring the sides together took place in January in Moscow, but the Western-backed Syrian National Coalition shunned the meeting because it did not aim to create a transitional government and remove Assad.

WORLD BRIEFS

Saddam's tomb suffers extensive damage in Iraq fighting

OUJA, Iraq (AP)—The tomb of Iraq's late dictator Saddam Hussein was virtually leveled in heavy clashes between militants from the Islamic State group and Iraqi forces in a fight for control of the city of Tikrit. Fighting intensified to the north and south of Saddam Hussein's hometown Sunday as Iraqi security forces vowed to reach the center of Tikrit within 48 hours. Associated Press video from the village of Ouja, just south of Tikrit, shows all that remains of Hussein's once-lavish tomb are the support columns that held up the roof. Poster-sized pictures of Saddam, which once covered the mausoleum, are now nowhere to be seen amid the mountains of concrete rubble. Instead, Shiite militia flags and photos of militia leaders mark the predominantly Sunni village, including that of Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani, the powerful Iranian general advising Iraqi Shiite militias on the battlefield.

Brazil raises toll of bus accident to 54 dead, 10 injured

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—The Brazilian government raised the death toll of a bus accident to 54 while police continued their search for more victims Sunday in the rugged lands of southern Brazil. The dead include at least eight young children, three adolescents, 24 women

and 14 men, the government of Santa Catarina state said in a statement earlier Sunday when the death toll stood at 49. There was no breakdown by age or gender given on the five additional casualties reported later. The bus plunged 1,300 feet down a mountain near the city of Joinville on Saturday. Ten people were transferred to nearby hospitals with severe injuries, and only one patient has been reported in stable condition.

Thousands of right-wing Israelis rally before election

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)—Thousands of people rallied in Tel Aviv on Sunday in support of Israel's hard-line, right-wing parties as Israel's prime minister entered a last-minute push to close a gap with his main challenger just days before the elections. Latest polls have shown that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud party trails the centrist Zionist Union by four seats. The numbers don't rule out Netanyahu's chances to form a government, but they have rattled his party, sending it into a get-out-the-vote blitz. Netanyahu has delivered a series of media interviews in recent days and decided, last minute, to speak at the Tel Aviv rally in a bid to shore up votes ahead of Tuesday's election. "This is a fateful struggle, a close struggle. We must close this gap. We can close this gap," Netanyahu said to roaring applause.

Focus

Secret historians preserve past in China amid state amnesia

By JACK CHANG and ISOLDA MORILLO

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP)—In his small ground-floor apartment just a few blocks from Beijing's landmark Bird's Nest stadium, Chinese language teacher, writer and do-it-yourself documentary maker Xu Xing is urgently preserving what he can of China's forbidden past.

Traveling usually by himself all over the country, the tall 58-year-old has recorded hours of interviews with everyday Chinese who were jailed, sometimes for years, on the barest of political charges during the decade-long spasm of social chaos known as the Cultural Revolution. Xu has edited that footage into documentaries that he only shows to those he trusts, in living rooms and coffee houses, preserving for history memories kept secret for decades.

"I want it so that this never happens in China again, so this is my tireless job," Xu said on a recent afternoon sitting at his kitchen-top editing bay. "I tell the people I interview, 'Clearly, I can't bring you any money or other reward. The main thing I do is let other people know your story.'"

With the ruling Communist Party zealously enforcing its own version of Chinese history, Xu's truth-telling is nothing less than an act of defiance. The government has largely succeeded in erasing or playing down whole swaths of Communist-era history by controlling what's talked about in the country's classrooms, museums and books, as well as in other areas of public life.

Ask the average Chinese under the age of 30 about the 1989 massacre of pro-democracy student activists centered in Beijing's Tiananmen Square, which scholars say claimed the lives of at hundreds of protesters and bystanders, and the answer will likely be ignorance or at best vague recognition. The same amnesia cloaks other dark periods of 20th-century Chinese history such as the catastrophic famines of the late 1950s, widely blamed on the government's push to rapidly industrialize, and the Cultural Revolution, which persecuted millions from 1966 to 1976.

Fu King-Wa, a journalism and media studies professor at the University of Hong Kong, said many of his students from mainland China learned of the Tiananmen massacre for the first time through his lectures.

Hong Kong, a semi-autonomous Chinese city, enjoys more freedom compared to the mainland, where Chinese who research and publicize the past on their own are often censored or jailed for causing trouble.

"This is authoritarian con-

trol of people's access to information. They want to create a unified version of how to understand this historical issue," Fu said.

Xu and other secret historians have taken it upon themselves to preserve photos, interview eyewitnesses and do the archival work that the Chinese government has banned most historians inside the country from doing.

You Weijie, whose husband died in the Tiananmen massacre, has conducted interviews with relatives of more than 40 other victims and stored the audio and video recordings overseas. Some are available online.

Tsering Woeser held onto dozens of her father's old photos of the Chinese military destroying temples and persecuting Buddhist priests and officials in the far western region of Tibet during the Cultural Revolution. In 2006, a Taiwan-based publisher put out a book of the photos.

Others in China run underground history magazines or preserve their memories of China's forbidden past in paintings.

These secret historians are exposed to police surveillance and, in many cases, to near-poverty, because they have little opportunity to make a living from their work.



In this photo taken Monday, Jan. 26, 2015, Xu Xing talks about his documentary film work at home in Beijing.

AP

"I think this is a very urgent thing. Because memory is important to people, and if the person is there, the memory is there. If the person isn't there, then the memory has disappeared."

Woeser, You and Xu said they were aware of the dangers they invited by speaking to The Associated Press, but said they had already been the targets of police scrutiny and were willing to run the additional risk.

"They're afraid of this," Xu said of Chinese authorities. "They don't let anybody see this. This is their crime."

The Chinese government's concerns about historical revision was spelled out in what was believed to be a confidential party document leaked to the public in 2013 and first printed in a Hong Kong newspaper.

The document called out critics who consider the Chinese Communist Party to be "a continuous series of mistakes," and warned that "his-

torical nihilism" rejecting the party's version of history "is tantamount to denying the legitimacy of the CCP's long-term political dominance."

For China's secret historians, however, documenting that history is the only way to make sure its tragedies aren't repeated.

Woeser, a Tibetan poet, said she had wondered as a girl why her father had taken photos of the destruction in the region, especially since he had been sent there as a Chinese soldier in the 1960s to help tighten the government's hold. Later, she said, she herself returned to track down the people captured in those photos.

"A lot of people have already died," she said, seated beside a private altar she's built to the

exiled Tibetan leader the Dalai Lama. "So I think this is a very urgent thing. Because memory is important to people, and if the person is there, the memory is there. If the person isn't there, then the memory has disappeared."

At different times, Woeser has been placed under house arrest for her work. You said she has also been placed under surveillance; police are permanently stationed on the ground floor of her apartment building. Xu is often stopped and questioned by local police while tracking down Cultural Revolution survivors.

What they find and record often clashes with how the Chinese government memorializes the country's tumultuous history since 1949, when the Communist Party seized control after a brutal civil war.

In the government's telling, the student protesters who filled Tiananmen Square demanding political reforms were launching a "counterrevolutionary riot," and only 300 or so were killed, as opposed to about 1,000 victims counted by other sources. The famines sparked by the Great Leap Forward of the 1950s, which scholars believe claimed upward of 30 million lives, are known in official versions as "three years of natu-

ral disaster," with at most a few million perishing.

The Chinese government has acknowledged some fault for the Cultural Revolution, saying the political purges were "responsible for the most severe setback and the heaviest losses ... since the founding of the People's Republic." Still, the period is rarely mentioned in Chinese media, and few relics of the time appear outside private collections.

That amnesia comes at an enormous price, and not just for victims who have yet to see justice or compensation, said Xun Zhou, a history professor at the University of Essex who has interviewed hundreds of rural Chinese about the famines of the Great Leap Forward and other historical events.

Avoiding that history has prevented any move toward the kind of reconciliation that in other societies has helped heal historical wounds, she said.

"If you're going to have reconciliation, you have to talk about things in the open, you have to face these unresolved historical issues," Xun said. "Now, there's no national memory of history. There's only individual memory, no collective memory."

Rowena He, a Harvard University lecturer who has documented the Tiananmen massacre and its aftermath, said those unresolved tensions and that aversion to historical accounting have helped shape the China of today. The 1989 crackdown, in particular, and its subsequent removal from national memory taught Chinese not only to distrust politics but to fear history, He said.

"With Tiananmen, they didn't just twist facts, they twisted the values," she said. "Cynicism, detachment, materialism, it really changed the Chinese compact and the way people see themselves."

You said she has devoted herself to her archival work so that the 1989 massacre and its victims, including her late husband, Yang Minghu, aren't forgotten by Chinese society and the world.

Yang, then a 42-year-old civil servant, rode his bicycle to Tiananmen Square on the night of the massacre after he heard gunfire. He ended up being shot in the bladder and dying two days later, leaving behind You and their young son.

You has since joined up with other relatives of massacre victims to track down others who can testify about the bloodshed—with confiscation of her materials or worse a constant threat.

"Even though we're weak because we don't have power," You said, "we don't want to let these things disappear and let history drown them."

Overdrive

By JEAN JENNINGS
JEANKNOWSCARS.COM

Can you buy a decent new car and pay less than \$20,000 for it? Yes, in fact, you can, and here's the big news: You won't have to steel yourself for a total hose-out special. Increasingly, you can get a small car laden with many features that used to be reserved for higher-end vehicles.

A case in point is the Toyota Yaris. Once a tiny, boring box, the Yaris in 2015 has a new, modern, and attractive appearance—that is, if you approve of the angry-mesh-grille look that is so popular these days. Which I do. Toyota pretty much had to update; the city-car category is jammed with little hatchbacks at small prices. The new Yaris has to elbow its way through Ford's Fiesta, the Honda Fit, the Kia Rio, Chevy's Sonic and the Mazda 2, all worthy competitors.

The Yaris model we tested was the top-end SE five-door hatchback, equipped with a five-speed manual transmission, which comes in at \$18,724. (The base model, the three-door Yaris L, is priced at \$15,670.) But if you were expecting an el strippo look for an el strippo price, you would be pleasantly surprised. Remarkably sophisticated-looking for such a small car, the Yaris SE has projector-beam headlights with an LED light bar, LED daytime running lights, a black grille with piano black accents, a rear spoiler and 16-inch alloy wheels (versus the standard 15-inch wheels). Compare the 2015 Yaris to the ones from 2014 or earlier, and you'll appreciate Toyota's leap of faith in overhauling this small car's appearance.

Looks would certainly be one reason to buy a new car, instead of used, at this price point. Another would be modern conveniences on the inside. Our Yaris SE had a 6.1-inch touchscreen, navigation (an \$899 option), and Bluetooth connectivity. Cruise control, a leather-trimmed steering wheel and shift lever, and power windows and locks are all there, as is remote keyless entry. Having said that, don't look for luxury or coziness: There's no center arm rest, the seats are narrow and stiff—although not uncomfortable, even on a 100-mile highway run—and the overall feeling is still somewhat ... economical.

Missing is a rearview camera, something you'll find on the Yaris's arch-competitor, the Honda Fit. Thinking about the number of young, inexperienced drivers who are likely to own a Yaris, this is disappointing. In fairness, most cars in this class don't have one. It would be a welcome option, though.

Also missing is the kind of capacious rear storage the

2015 Toyota Yaris

is a city car at a small-town price

MCT
2015 Toyota Yaris.

Honda Fit has so much of. The Yaris has 60/40 split-folding rear seats, but the amount of rear space you get when you fold them down doesn't approach the 52.7 cubic feet the Fit can boast. Having said that, the rear seating area is surprisingly comfortable. I wouldn't go so far as to call it "spacious," but it's no mere package holder; you could put kids back there, at least kids up through elementary-school age, and adults could stand it for short drives, at least.

If you think the Yaris seems like it's much better suited for use around town than on a road trip, you're not wrong, but a couple of hours on the highway, including a spate of rush-hour traffic, showed that it is capable enough and feels bigger than it is. You can push 70 mph comfortably, although you won't forget you're in an economy car. The SE model has up-graded suspension and brakes, and it shows. Wind noise was manageable, turbulence was minimal, and the 1.5-liter four-cylinder was reasonably competent. This is an older engine, teamed with a five-speed manual transmission versus the six-speed you'll find on the Fit. Other competitors, including the Ford Fiesta and the Chevrolet Sonic, also have five-speed manuals as standard. The automatic transmission is an old-school four-speed. Today's

newest transmissions are much smoother and quieter. I would at least stay with the manual so I could get every last drop of shifting fun available. So, the

Yaris may not have the latest and greatest under the hood, but it's reasonably competent, especially as an around-town errand runner.

Subcompact shoppers are also concerned with fuel economy and safety. The Yaris bests its competitors with an impressive 30 mpg in town and 37

mpg on the highway. By comparison, the Chevrolet Sonic gets 26/35 mpg, and the Honda Fit gets 29/37 mpg. The 2015 Yaris did well in Insurance Institute for Highway Safety testing, rated Good in all but the small-overlap front crash rating. Here again, it's outgunned by the Honda Fit, which got Acceptable on the small-overlap test and was named a Top Safety Pick for 2015.

Why would you choose the Toyota Yaris? You might choose it if you're a Toyota loyalist, or want to be one. You might like its styling better than that of its more prosaic-looking competitors. But there's no doubt that you will have lots of other cars to check out before you make that decision.

NUTS & BOLTS

2015 Toyota Yaris SE 5-Door

- Price Range: \$15,670 (Yaris L)—\$18,724 (prices include destination charge)
- Engine: 1.5-liter four-cylinder, 106 horsepower
- EPA Fuel Economy: 30 mpg city/37 mpg highway
- Competition (all prices include destination charges):
- 2015 Ford Fiesta SE Hatchback \$16,420
- 2015 Honda Fit LX \$16,470
- 2015 Kia Rio LX \$17,815
- 2015 Nissan Versa Note SV \$17,155
- Fun-O-Meter: 4.

UNDER THE HOOD

Mileage aside, aged timing belt warrants replacement

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Q: I have a 2007 Acura MDX. It was purchased new, is serviced regularly and is never abused. It now has 53,000 miles on it. Everything I'm reading states the timing belt should be replaced at 105,000 miles (60,000 for severe usage). Age is not mentioned. The dealer is telling me it should be replaced because the car is 8 years old. It's a lot of money if it's not necessary. Your opinion please.—Anonymous

A: This question comes up a lot and everyone has a differing opinion. Some carmakers do specify a time interval along with the mileage, and you'd be coming up close with most of them. My concern is you have a magnificent engine that could incur significant and expensive damage if the timing belt was to break. This is known as an interference engine, where the valves will collide with the pistons if the crankshaft and cam-

shaft lose synchronization due to belt breakage. In order to deliver high performance, many modern engines are designed this way.

It's logical that most timing belt wear occurs due to use, but environmental conditions such as airborne ozone and oil contamination could be taking their toll as well. Methodically inspecting the belt's inner cogs for cracks or deterioration makes sense, but isn't easy to do on many engines without some disassembly. If it were my vehicle, I'd renew the timing belt at 60,000 miles, along with the water pump and belt tensioner. These additional parts are recommended as they could derail or destroy the belt if one of them fails.

Q: How many miles should a catalytic converter and two sensors last? I have a four-cylinder Honda Accord with 161,000 miles. What's best: a new or replacement converter?—Bob Seashore

A: In a perfect world these parts would last the life of the

vehicle. Catalytic converters can gradually lose efficiency due to contamination and excessive heat. Oxygen sensors can also become biased or sleepy, again from contamination, and occasionally suffer from internal heater failure. Phosphorus and zinc deposits due to oil usage and silicone contamination as a result of coolant leakage—from head gasket leakage, a cracked cylinder head or the wrong engine sealants, can slowly poison both the cat and oxygen sensors. Newer motor oils and some coolants have greatly reduced levels of these substances. A mode six scan tool reading (challenging to interpret) can indicate how close or far these parts are from reaching the failure threshold.

Major failure of a catalytic converter can occur due to engine misfiring, an excessively rich air-fuel mixture, impact damage and possibly a cold quench from a really deep puddle. The normally high temperature within the catalyst

can soar with unburned air and fuel passing through, resulting in melting and breakage of the honeycomb substrate. Besides spoiling emissions treatment, this, along with impact or quench damage can cause a clogging effect, dramatically reducing engine performance. Greater heat caused by a rich air-fuel mixture fuses pores in the converter's active surface, reducing oxygen storage capacity. Assuming upstream and downstream oxygen sensors are functioning correctly, the dreaded P0420 diagnostic trouble code usually makes the right call that the cat has seen better life. If one plans to keep a car for the long term, I'd opt for the greater durability, better performance and longer warranty of an OEM cat instead of a less expensive aftermarket replacement.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood(at)earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Life & Style

With cremations up, urn artists look for the *beauty in death*



In this March 2, 2015 photo, two cremation urns flank a vase of longleaf pine needles in the offices of Oakwood Cemetery in Raleigh, N.C.

APEX, N.C. (AP)—Of all the pieces Julie Moore crafts in her home studio, the most popular is a brightly colored fabric vessel she calls “the party jar.”

But in this case, the guest of honor is inside the jar.

“People that are vivacious and celebrate life—this one is what they really like,” she says, lifting the ornately woven lid from the urn. “I want it to be a piece of art that they look at and they don’t think, ‘Oh. That’s Dad’s ashes.’”

Cremations in the United States have tripled since 1985, accounting for about 44 percent of all “dispositions,” according to the Cremation Association of North America. With families becoming increasingly transient, the organization expects that to grow to 55 percent over the next decade.

And as cremations soar, more people are looking for urns that, well, don’t look like urns.

“At least one in five Americans have an urn in their house,” says Robin Simonton, executive director of Raleigh’s historic Oakwood Cemetery. “And if you’re going to put someone on your mantle, you want them to look nice.”

On April 19, Oakwood is hosting its first Urn Art & Gar-

den Faire—a juried competition that’s drawn entries from across the country. Although the idea of a national urn contest has raised some eyebrows, Simonton thinks it’s an appropriate way to recognize this trend in “the personalization of death.”

Some have taken it to an extreme.

Foreverence, a funeral products company in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, uses 3-D printing to allow customers to design urns in the shape of a favorite musical instrument or car, and to even create a lifelike bust of the deceased. For the family of Devo guitarist Bob Casale, the company created an urn shaped like “The Energy Dome”—the synth pop/new wave band’s iconic tiered hat.

Oakwood has received more than two dozen entries, made of everything from wood, ceramic and fabric to North Carolina longleaf pine needles. The farthest submission is from Wyoming. Crafted of tooled leather, it features an American Indian brave, slumped in the saddle, and the words: “A horse we all must ride someday.”

Jason Van Duyn began making urns a couple of years ago after reading an article about a woodworker who volunteered his time to make containers for veterans whose remains were coming home in cardboard boxes. He looked at what was out

there on the market and wasn’t impressed.

The Raleigh woodturner works almost exclusively with trees that have died naturally, going where the wood’s grain and imperfections take him. His urns range in price from \$300 for a 70-cubic-inch piece made from a black cherry stump to \$5,200 for a 450-cubic-inch red maple burl “companion” urn.

“It’s kind of on par with somebody who would get a



In this Feb. 9, 2015 photo, Julie Moore puts a finishing touch to a funerary urn at her home studio in Apex, N.C.

really nice casket,” says Van Duyn, who works out of his garage. “So it’s something that the owner would be happy to have on display and that they can feel proud of and they can feel good about their loved ones being in.”

Moore got into funerary art through her own interest in “green burial.” She started with shrouds, pillows and

quilts to be placed in simple pine boxes; the urns seemed a natural progression.

Often, the family will send her items of the deceased’s clothing. She recently made an urn out of T-shirts from a teenage boy who’d committed suicide.

“It made a very pretty urn,” she says. “And it was the col-

ors of HIS life.”

Each comes with a tightly woven sateen drawstring bag that can be buried or used to scatter the ashes, Moore says. Urns intended for burial are made entirely of organic, biodegradable materials.

Moore began showing her pieces about two years ago. Sometimes, her conceit is a bit too effective.

“I had one woman who was holding it and, ‘Oh, it’s so pretty. It’s beautiful. What do you put in here?’ And I said, ‘Well, actually, you put cremains in there. It’s for ashes,’” Moore says with a grin. “She dropped it and ran as if she’d, like, touched death or something.”

Raleigh resident Norma Marti bought her own party jar about two years ago.

“I turned 60 that year, and so that last quarter century of life was looming,” she says. “I thought, ‘Well, that’s really cool.’ And I can actually display it as art—until it’s needed.”

When guests ask about the piece in her family room bookcase, she doesn’t tell them it’s a funerary urn. But her children know what it’s for.

“When the time comes,” she says with a chuckle, “then hopefully I’ll be able to fit into it.”



In this March 4, 2015 photo, urns made of spalted holly, foreground, and red maple burl rest on a workbench in Jason Van Duyn’s shop in Raleigh, N.C.

Bieber is the butt of the joke, says sorry at comedy roast

CULVER CITY, Calif. (AP)—Justin Bieber really wants you to like him again. After being the butt of the joke for hours during the taping of his Comedy Central roast, the 21-year-old singer gave a contrition speech.

"I turned a lot of people off over the past few years, but I know I can still turn out good music and turn everything all around," said Bieber, whose music has been overshadowed by his offstage antics, which include reckless driving, public urination and throwing eggs at a neighbor's home.

"I've lost some of my best qualities. For that, I am sorry," he said. "I'm looking forward to being someone who you guys can all look at and be proud of."

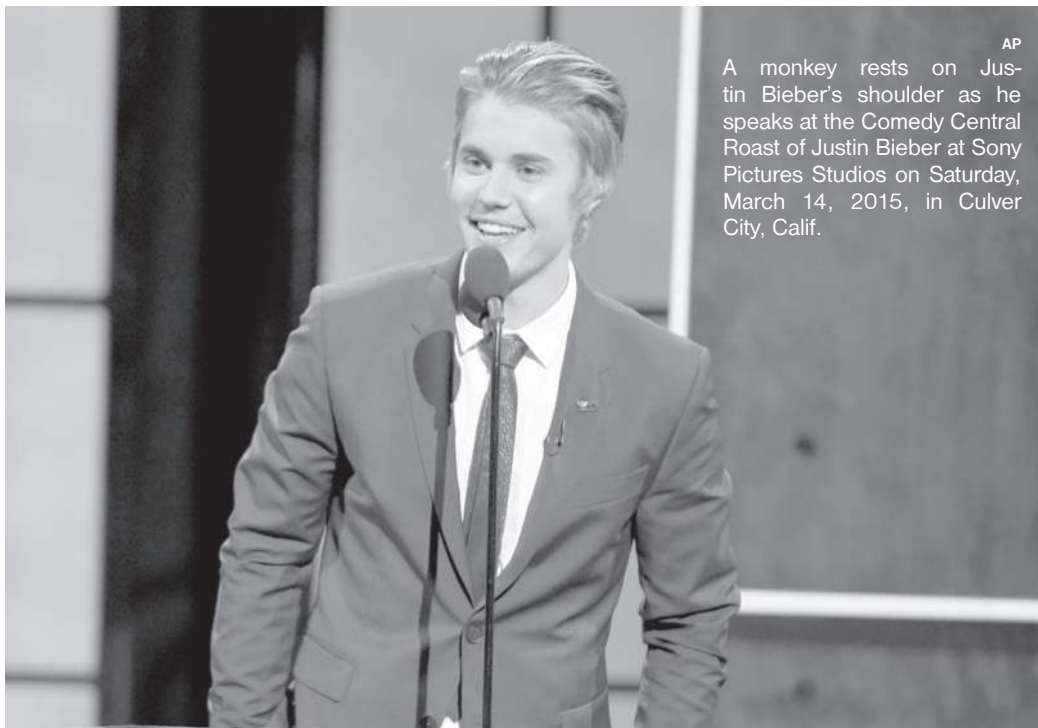
It was a sweet ending to a

night of sharp barbs aimed as much at Bieber as the rest of the roasters. Hosted by Kevin Hart, the "Comedy Central Roast of Justin Bieber," taped Saturday at Sony Studios, also features Snoop Dogg, Shaquille O'Neal, Martha Stewart and Ludacris. It's set to premiere March 30.

"This is like suicide. Why would you do it?" Hart asked the singer, whom he described as a "huge success that confuses everybody over 14."

"The name Bieber has become so offensive, the Washington Redskins think you should change it," quipped comic Jeffrey Ross.

The roasters—including a surprise appearance by Will Ferrell's character Ron Burgundy—jabbed at Bieber's bad



AP
A monkey rests on Justin Bieber's shoulder as he speaks at the Comedy Central Roast of Justin Bieber at Sony Pictures Studios on Saturday, March 14, 2015, in Culver City, Calif.

behavior, his relationship with Selena Gomez, his music and his appearance.

Perhaps the harshest remarks came from comedian Chris D'Elia.

"You have it all," he said, "except love, friends, good parents and a Grammy."

Stewart offered Bieber tips for his eventual trip to prison. Snoop Dogg appeared to smoke a joint onstage after telling the singer his next album should be called "Straight Outta Talent."

Bieber, who was lowered from the ceiling to the stage wearing white angel wings, gently swiped back.

"What happens when you give a teenager \$200 million?" he asked. "You get a bunch of has-beens calling you a lesbian for two hours."

'Cinderella' is belle of the box office with \$70.1M debut

NEW YORK (AP)—"Let It Go" may be Walt Disney's anthem these days, but "Everything's Coming Up Roses" might be the more accurate theme song for the Disney juggernaut.

Disney's recent streak continued over the weekend with the \$70.1 million North American debut of its traditional, sumptuously costumed fairy tale adaptation "Cinderella," according to studio estimates Sunday. Interest in the film, directed by Kenneth Branagh and starring Lily James of "Downton Abbey," was boosted by a "Frozen" short, "Frozen Fever," that played before the feature.

Disney's box-office surge has been propelled partly by the so-called "halo effect" of "Frozen," a sequel to which Disney announced last week. But it's also been driven by the appeal of seeing Disney cartoon classics

turned into live-action fantasies. "Cinderella" follows previous live-action hits like "Maleficent" (whose May 2014 debut of \$69.4 million "Cinderella" narrowly bested) and "Alice in Wonderland."

The holiday release "Into the Woods," from the Stephen Sondheim musical, added to the live-action trend, and many more are on the way. "The Jungle Book," "Beauty and the Beast" and "Dumbo" are all coming in live action, as is a sequel to "Alice in Wonderland."

Disney has also found big profits in capitalizing on female moviegoers, who made up the largest chunk of "Frozen" and "Maleficent" fans. The audience for "Cinderella" was 66 percent female, Disney said.

"There is seemingly a lot of appetite for these stories to be told, I think, in part because many of them have a female

protagonist and we've seen there's significant box-office success that can come by featuring female-driven stories," said Dave Hollis, head of distribution at Disney.

"Frozen Fever" was certainly part of why we're seeing the kind of success that we did this weekend," Hollis said. "In and of itself, 'Cinderella' is absolutely a great stand-alone experience. But it ends up being a one-plus-one-equals-three thing for the consumer."

The success of "Cinderella," which cost about \$95 million to make, was international. It made \$62.4 million overseas, including \$25 million in China. Disney could also celebrate "Big Hero 6" becoming the top-grossing worldwide animated release of 2014; the Oscar-winner has made \$633 million globally.

With Disney's high-priced

but lucrative ownership of Marvel, Lucasfilm and Pixar, the studio will be flexing its strength throughout 2015 with releases like "The Avengers: Age of Ultron," "Inside Out" and "Star Wars: The Force Awakens."

"Disney is just a well-oiled machine that is firing on all cylinders right now," says Paul Dergarbedian, senior media analyst for box-office data firm Rentrak. "It's about this Disney umbrella which encompasses these incredible crown jewel brands they have. 'Cinderella' is just the latest example."

While Disney was flexing its might, the powers of another box-office force, Liam Neeson, were checked. Neeson's latest thriller, "Run All Night," a New York crime saga co-starring Ed Harris, opened with \$11 million for Warner Bros.

The film's poor performance marks the weakest debut for the "Taken" star as an action film lead. Dergarbedian noted Neeson's appeal is strongest in PG-13 rated films (all three "Taken" films, "Non-Stop"), while weaker in R-rated re-

leases like "Run All Night" and last year's "A Walk Among the Tombstones."

Last week's top film, the sci-fi thriller "Chappie," from "District 9" director Neill Blomkamp, slid to fifth with \$5.8 million for Sony Pictures.

In limited release, the critically acclaimed independent horror film "It Follows" earned

a robust \$163,000 on just four screens.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Rentrak. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

'Citizen Kane' has screening at Hearst Castle's private theater

SAN SIMEON, Calif. (AP)—For some movie buffs, showing Orson Welles' acclaimed film "Citizen Kane" at Hearst Castle is like having a screening of "Star Wars" on the Death Star.

Fifty film fans had the opportunity to watch Welles' 1941 groundbreaking film partly based on the late William Randolph Hearst at the media tycoon's own private theater at Hearst Castle, a concession the magnate would probably not have made.

The screening Friday with a price tag of \$1,000 was part of the San Luis Obispo Film Festival. It included an exclusive tour of the estate, which is now a state park, and a reception on the mansion's patio overlooking the Pacific Ocean. It will benefit the non-profit Friends of Hearst Castle, a preservation group.

Welles' cinema classic was shown before in the Hearst Castle's visitor center in 2010, but this was the first time the film was screened in the opulent, 50-seat theater at the hill-top estate.

Great-grandson Stephen Hearst, the vice president and general manager of Hearst Corp.'s Western Properties, gave his blessing to the festival to screen the film both times. He didn't attend, but said he saw it as an opportunity to show the differences

between his great-grandfather and Charles Foster Kane, the character played by Welles.

"My logic back then was very simple, this was an opportunity to clarify the record, to draw the distinction between the fictional character of Charlie Kane and his gloomy Xanadu and WR Hearst and his beautiful architectural masterpiece at the top of the hill at San Simeon," Stephen Hearst said.

William Randolph Hearst sought to derail the movie, which portrayed the rise and fall of an obsessively controlling media mogul, but the film went on to win an Academy Award in 1942 for best original screenplay and is now considered one of the greatest American films. The film, a searing critique of a newspaper magnate, has many similarities to Hearst's life.

But Stephen Hearst said the screening, which was hosted by Ben Mankiewicz, the grandson of Herman Mankiewicz, who co-wrote the "Citizen Kane" screenplay, was an opportunity to draw the distinctions between William Randolph Hearst's life and Welles' fiction.

"I view it as clarifying the record, and showing what an extraordinary human being WR was and what he accomplished in his life," Stephen Hearst said.



AP
This image released by Disney shows Lily James as Cinderella in Disney's live-action feature film inspired by the classic fairy tale, "Cinderella."

1. **"Cinderella,"** \$70.1 million (\$62.4 million international).
2. **"Run All Night,"** \$11 million (\$6.6 million international).
3. **"Kingsman: The Secret Service,"** \$6.2 million (\$13.7 million international).
4. **"Focus,"** \$5.8 million (\$13.5 million international).
5. **"Chappie,"** \$5.8 million (\$13.6 million international).
6. **"The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel,"** \$5.7 million (\$4.1 million international).
7. **"The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water,"** \$4.1 million (\$4.3 million international).
8. **"McFarland, USA,"** \$3.7 million.
9. **"American Sniper,"** \$2.9 million (\$8 million).
10. **"The DUFF,"** \$2.9 million.



American singer and songwriter Kelly Clarkson poses for a portrait in promotion of her forthcoming album "Piece by Piece" at the Sony Club, on Wednesday, March 4, 2015 in New York.

AP

Motherhood hits home for Kelly Clarkson, in life and music

NEW YORK (AP)—Giving birth to her first child—and watching her husband tend to their daughter—made Kelly Clarkson realize how much her father wasn’t around when she was growing up.

“I think when you hold this little human you’ve created, now I think I understand the depth of the loss I had not having a father figure growing up,” she said in interview last week. “I didn’t really get that or grasp what that was until falling in love with my husband and seeing him be a father and what that actually is when it’s done well.”

Clarkson, 32, and music manager Brandon Blackstock, are the parents of 8-month-old River Rose.

The Grammy winner, known for hits like “Stronger” and “Since U Been Gone,” sings about her father on the heartfelt, revealing “Piece by Piece,” the title track of her new album.

“And no offense to my father, you know, he is a product of his upbringing, like, I don’t know what that was, but you know, I just think now that I have River, like holding her, I can’t imagine walking away,” she said.

“Piece by Piece” debuted at No. 1 on Billboard’s 200 albums chart this week. While there are some serious tunes on the album, it also features upbeat jams, like the first single, “Heartbeat Song.”

In a recent interview, the original “American Idol” champion talked about giving birth to her daughter, watching her old “Idol” performances and recording music, including a country album.

AP: What’s your relationship like with your father now?

Clarkson: I don’t know him.

AP: Was it difficult recording the title track because of the subject matter?

Clarkson: It wasn’t hard recording ‘Piece by Piece.’ It’s proving to be harder singing live. ... It’s not even the sad parts of it because I’m not there. I’m not in that place anymore, like where I’m sad about it. I’m in a very forgiving place about it and everybody’s human. But I think I get really choked up because I just realize how lucky I am. ... And a lot of girls that grew up with their daddy issues and with not having that figure in their life, you know, take a very different road and I just feel lucky that I’m not that girl.

AP: Was it different to record music during your pregnancy?

Clarkson: They’re just hanging out

on your diaphragm, jumping up and down. But also, just like emotionally, it’s different. I told my husband I want to be pregnant the next time I make an album because it makes much more, everything is enhanced ... I’ve just become more of an enhanced vessel for the lyric, you know? It becomes more emotional, more passionate and more vulnerable.

AP: Mariah Carey actually said her voice was more powerful after she gave birth. Do you feel that way?

Clarkson: I did feel more powerful while being pregnant. I guess it’s just because I’m like, ‘I can create life! What did you do today?!’

AP: Do you play music for your daughter?

Clarkson: I sing for her. I play guitar for her. She’s obsessed with watching the guitar. I haven’t done it well. ... She loves sound. She’s like any baby. She’s not some prodigy.

AP: You only co-wrote three songs for this album. What happened?

Clarkson: I wasn’t really feeling inspired. And all the songs I was writing like ‘Piece by Piece,’ ‘I Had a Dream’ or ‘Tightrope,’ they’re just very intense songs, and I was like, ‘This is developing into a very dramatic album.’

AP: You’ve lived in Nashville, Tennessee, for eight years. Have you thought about recording a country album?

Clarkson: I’ve done more than thought about doing a country album, I actually started making one. I love it. I love country music. And who knows? I love big band, too. I’d love to make a complete standards album.

AP: Any interest in doing a gospel album?

Clarkson: Well, my country album sounds very soulful. ... My country album isn’t too far from gospel on some parts of it.

AP: Do you watch your old music videos or performances?

Clarkson: A fan tweeted me some video, a ‘Throwback Thursday’ kind of thing, and I watched it. And then I went down the YouTube vortex of watching all my ‘Idol’ things. And I was like, ‘How did I win?’ It was so bad! I was like so bad! I mean, every single performance. The only one I ended up liking actually was the big band one.

AP: I’m sure they weren’t all bad, were they?

Clarkson: It was just fun because it’s been like 13 years. I was like, ‘I don’t feel like I’m any different.’ Then I was like, ‘Whoa! It’s like a big difference!’

Dolce&Gabbana say comments about family not meant to judge

MILAN (AP)—Fashion designers Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana drew applause for sending a pregnant model down the runway as part of their tribute to mothers, but their endorsement of traditional families in a recent interview unleashed harsh criticism and calls to boycott their label.

The designers, under growing social media pressure, issued a statement Sunday saying their comments in an interview with Italian magazine Panorama supporting traditional families with a mother and a father weren’t intended to judge the choices made by others.

Elton John added his voice to the call to boycott the designers’ Dolce&Gabbana label, expressing of-

fense at their skepticism about the use of in vitro fertilization and surrogate mothers to create families. The musician’s two children were conceived by in vitro fertilization.

Singer Ricky Martin, the father of twins born by a surrogate mother, called on the pair to “wake up” in a message on Twitter, admonishing the designers that their voices were too powerful to spread hate.

Gabbana said in a statement Sunday that “it was never our intention to judge other people’s choices. We do believe in freedom and love.”

Dolce says he was expressing his view about family based on his experience growing up in a traditional

Sicilian family “made up of a mother, a father and children. I am very well aware of the fact that there are other types of families and they are as legitimate as the one I’ve known.”

Dolce said he was expressing his personal views “without judging other people’s choices.”

The designers, who are gay and formerly were a couple, have put the traditional family at the center of their last two collections, sending a pregnant model and models with their own children down the runway to celebrate motherhood for next winter’s womenswear collection, while featuring grandmothers with their grandsons for menswear.

2-1-1 is number to remember to find low-cost services

DEAR ABBY: We are writing in response to the question you printed (Jan. 13) about where to find affordable counseling. Your suggestions were helpful, but we want to share another one:

2-1-1 is an easy-to-remember telephone number that, where available, connects people to information about critical, free or low-cost health and human services in their community. 2-1-1 reaches about 270 million people (90 percent of the U.S. population), covering all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Canada. It is a free, confidential resource.

Similar to dialing 9-1-1 for emergencies, calling 2-1-1 helps people seeking training, employment, food pantries, shelter, assistance for aging parents, addiction prevention programs for teens, affordable housing options and support groups. It provides a one-stop service for community referrals.

Abby, won’t you share this information with your readers? Everyone knows someone who needs help. 2-1-1 is there for them.

STAFF OF 2-1-1, ORANGE COUNTY, CALIF.

DEAR STAFF: I’m pleased to pass along this important resource, which serves such a large portion of the population. Thank you for taking the time to offer it to my readers.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am 28 and engaged to marry a wonderful man, “Ryan.” Before I met him, I was involved in an affair with my mar-

ried boss and was deeply in love with him. (I still am.) We continued our affair even after I met Ryan, and now I think I’m pregnant. I told my boss and, naturally, he’s not happy about it.

I don’t know how to tell Ryan or if I even want to. I have always wanted to be a mother, and now I have the chance. But I may end up doing it alone in poor financial shape. I also won’t have a home to live in once my old-fashioned mother finds out I’ve gotten myself pregnant before marriage. Any advice?

SCARED STUPID IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR SCARED STUPID: Yes. Take a pregnancy test to determine if you really are pregnant. If it turns out that you are, then you must tell your fiancé everything. Even if Ryan walks away, the baby’s father will be legally responsible for child support.

It is important that you also tell your mother what’s going on. She may not be thrilled to hear the news, but I doubt she will put you and her grandchild-to-be out on the street. A generation or two ago that might have happened, but no longer.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I know if a girl breaks off the engagement, she’s supposed to return the ring to her ex-fiance. Does the situation of a wife filing for divorce fall under the same set of rules? I need a response soon.

CRAIG IN HOUSTON

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR CRAIG: No. If the rings were given with the promise of marriage and the promise was fulfilled, she is not expected to return them.

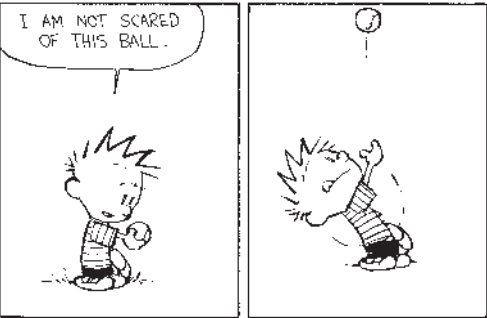
■ ■ ■ ■

TO MY IRISH READERS: A very happy St. Patrick’s Day to you all. — Love, ABBY

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

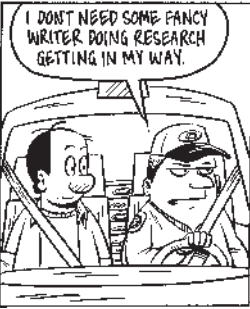
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By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Alpha follower

5 "El —"

8 TV's Dr. McGraw

12 Mosque VIP

13 Privy

14 Carnival attraction

15 Effervescent

17 Lecherous look

18 Pitcher part

19 "Caddyshack" critter

21 Passé

24 Harp's ancestor

25 Cupid's alias

26 Unsteady

30 Intention

31 Actor LaBeouf et al

32 Fish eggs

33 Dilettante's interest

35 Ready for anything

36 Trenches

37 Walking sticks

38 Senescence

41 "— Town"

42 Rowboat needs

43 Chewing in small bits

48 Menageries

49 Prior to

50 Concept

51 Catch sight of

52 Shaft of light

53 Hen pen

2 Ostrich's cousin

3 Bill

4 Strolls

5 Paper holder

6 Charged bit

7 Leftovers

8 Drive on

9 Lofty

10 Not working

11 See

17-Across

16 Cover

20 Spheres

21 Conked out

22 Met melody

23 Grant's is famous

24 Body parts often

26 Bleach

27 Persia, now

28 Iditarod terminus

29 The Bee —

31 Punch hard

34 Obstrep-erous

35 Scampi ingredient

37 News-room newbie

38 Leak slowly

39 Vientiane's land

40 Let fall

41 Do what I say

44 Savings plan acronym

45 "— not choose to run"

46 Ultra-modernist

47 Space

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 3-17

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mia Hamm, 43; Rob Lowe, 51; Gary Sinise, 60; Kurt Russell, 64.

Happy Birthday: Use your imagination and you will come up with solutions to legal, financial or contractual problems. It's important to take part in what's going on around you at work or in your community. If you don't participate, you will have no leverage to complain. Control will be necessary if you want the year to be stellar. Embrace each day. Your numbers are 6, 13, 24, 26, 37, 40, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep an open mind and listen carefully to what's being said. Someone will withhold information if you don't ask direct questions. Consider what you can do to make a difference in an important relationship. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't ignore your intuition when it comes to your relationships with others. Trust your own feelings, not what someone is trying to make you think. Proceed with caution, especially if demands are being put on you. Focus on simplicity, moderation and organization. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Refuse to take on additional responsibilities if it will hinder reaching your goals. Confusion when dealing with other people's personal matters will lead to trouble. Honesty and integrity will be necessary if you want to move forward. Follow through with your plans. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take care of business. Don't let an argument or debate sway your mood or cost you valuable time that you should be spending being productive and doing your job. Deal with personal matters directly so you can carry on with your work. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Complete what you set out to do. You can alter your circumstances if you are persistent and take direct action. Don't leave anything to chance. If you take control, you can bring about significant change that will benefit you as well as others. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Focus on self-improvement. Join a club or buy a good workout tape. If you want to be your best, it will take time, effort and dedication. Take control of your life and update your image. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Deal with emotional issues quickly and you'll avoid a stressful situation. An open attitude and willingness to compromise will bring you closer to someone you want to work or spend more time with. Be a team player. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't let someone's last-minute changes throw you off your game. Be imaginative and work with whatever you are given. It's your diversity and creative ideas that will be admired and rewarded. Romance is in the stars. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Get directions, information or instructions from a reliable source. Secondhand information won't be trustworthy and could lead to loss or embarrassment. Home improvements will turn out well. A nice gesture will improve your love life. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Avoid getting mixed up in a joint financial venture with someone who is unreliable. Consider how you can use the information you receive to advance on your own. Don't let an emotional situation turn in to a costly affair. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You've got what it takes to advance and should be able to carry out your plans with confidence. Express your feelings and discuss partnership plans that can improve your personal and professional future. Romance and celebration should be planned. ★★★★★

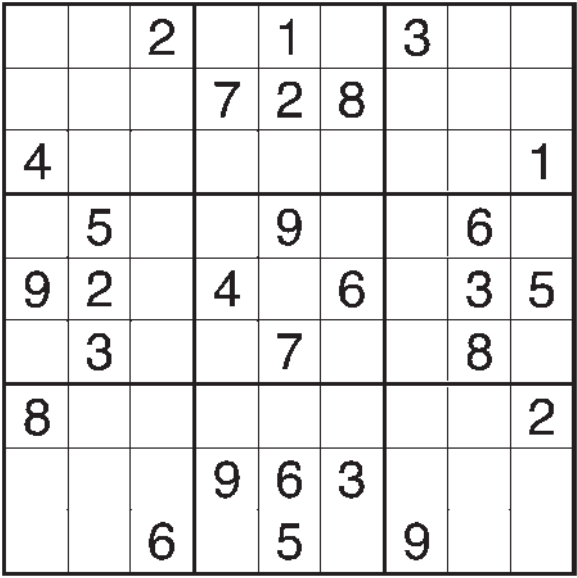
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Caution and observation will be necessary if you want to avoid someone's reluctance to let you move ahead. Listen to the contributions made by others, and use the information you gather to outmaneuver anyone who stands in your way. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are caring, mindful and astute. You are reserved and persistent. Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter/facebook/linkedin](http://twitter.com/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

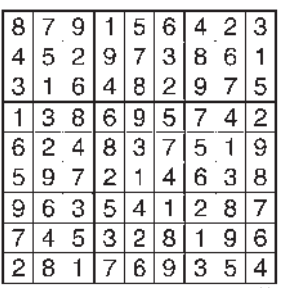


Difficulty Level ★★

3/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★

3/17

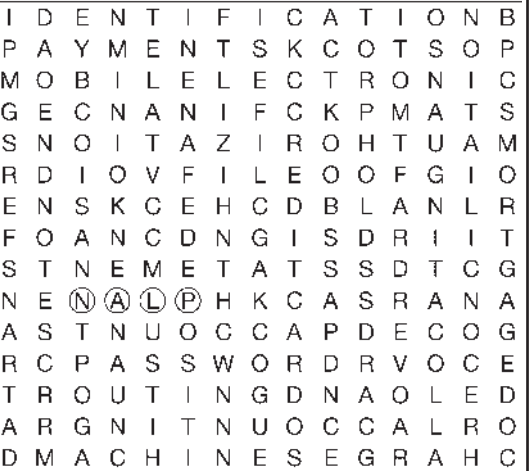
WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BANKING TERMS

Solution: 8 letters



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Yesterday's Answer: Collect
To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 35, 37, 38, 39, 40 or 41, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JOB TITLE: Administrative Assistant
IMMEDIATE MANAGER: General Manager, PTC

Administrative Assistant Job Responsibilities:
Provides office services by implementing administrative systems, procedures, and policies, and monitoring administrative projects. Provides Administrative support for various HR functions, as well.

Administrative Assistant Job Duties:

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Kentucky leads the way with top spot in March Madness

By EDDIE PELLIS
AP NATIONAL WRITER

The Kentucky Wildcats ended up where everyone expected them on Selection Sunday: Seeded No. 1 on their quest to become the first undefeated team since 1976.

Oh, but there were surprises when the NCAA Tournament bracket came out, too.

Big-conference UCLA and Texas made it. Colorado State and Temple did not.

Wisconsin is a No. 1 seed for the first time in program history. But the Badgers must play in the West Region, where second-seeded Arizona is certain to draw more fans.

As for those play-in games that start Tuesday in Dayton. Well, one of the teams playing is Dayton—a No. 11 seed that will have a distinct home-court advantage Wednesday night against Boise State. Generally, that's not allowed during the tournament, but there's an exception because the committee said the Flyers were the last team in the 68-team field, and thus, had to play in the opening-round game.

"It falls within our policies and procedures," selection committee chairman Scott Barnes said. "It's obviously a home-court advantage but we didn't waver from that decision."

Fans have a few days to fill out their brackets (Sorry, no billion-dollar prize available for a perfect one this year), then the action starts in full on Thursday, when Kentucky headlines the slate against the winner of a play-in game between No. 16 seeds Manhattan

and Hampton. A '1' has never lost to a '16.'

The other No. 1 seeds were Villanova in the East and Duke in the South. Those were pretty easy picks.

And then there was the total no-brainer—placing Kentucky at the top of the Midwest Region, and at the very top of the bracket. The Wildcats defeated Arkansas 78-63 on Sunday to improve to 34-0. If they win six more, they'll become the first team since then 1975-76 Indiana Hoosiers to go undefeated.

"I think I have the best team and the best players," said coach John Calipari, trying to lead the program to its ninth national title. "Does that mean we'll win? No, it doesn't."

The Wildcats are even-money picks in Las Vegas to win it all, and at least one coach, Bill Self of Kansas, thinks that might be a bargain.

"I shouldn't be talking about Vegas, but my point is, I think they're a pretty heavy favorite," said Self, whose Jayhawks are seeded No. 2 in the Midwest.

Other No. 2 seeds are Gonzaga in the South and Virginia in the East.

Barnes said Arizona and Virginia were the other teams in the mix for the top seed. He defended placing Duke there, saying the Blue Devils' road wins over Virginia, North Carolina and Louisville carried more weight than their lack of a conference title.

"Those strong, very elite wins, wins on the road—and let's not forget the eye test with Duke—all were considerations," he said.

Barnes called placing UCLA



AP
Auburn guard Devin Waddell (31) looks to shoot against Kentucky forward Willie Cauley-Stein (15) and Kentucky forward Karl-Anthony Towns (12) during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game in the semifinal round of the Southeastern Conference tournament, Saturday, March 14, 2015, in Nashville, Tenn.

have a good strength-of-schedule, they were playing better against tough competition. An example is the last game against Arizona (a 70-64 loss in the Pac-12 title game). I think the 'eye test' was also a plus in putting them in the field."

The Big Ten and Big 12 led the way with seven teams each in the bracket.

Other teams that just missed were Old Dominion and Richmond, which lost out to teams like Ole Miss and Texas that have stronger schedules baked into the cake because they play in major conferences.

As is custom, Barnes was short on specifics, though he said Wyoming's surprise victory in the Mountain West Conference stole away an at-large bid that would've gone to Temple—the last team out.

The next team out was Colorado State. Rams coach Larry Eustachy broke away from his team's "viewing party" to make a brief statement.

"They are devastated, and they should be, because they are certainly an NCAA Tournament team," Eustachy said.

The bracket includes its usual share of quirks and tear-jerkers.

-UCLA's first game is against SMU, coached by Larry Brown, the 74-year-old turnaround artist who is taking his third team to the NCAA Tournament. The first team? UCLA, of course.

-Harvard, coached by former Duke star Tommy Amaker, faces his old rival, North Carolina, in the first round.

-Georgia State coach Ron Hunter watched the bracket unveiling with his left foot in a cast. He tore his Achilles' tendon while celebrating his program's first trip to the tournament since 2001. The 14th-seeded Panthers open against Baylor.

-Also seeded No. 14 is Albany, which made the tournament on a 3-pointer with 1 second left by Peter Hooley, whose mother died six weeks ago from colon cancer. No. 14 Albany opens against Oklahoma.

-Wichita State is in the same region with Kansas, an in-state program that won't schedule the Shockers, and Kentucky, which ended Wichita State's undefeated season last year in the second round.

This year, it's Kentucky that comes in with a '0' in that loss column.

"Everyone is zero-and-zero now," Calipari said. "That's the key to this. It's a one-game shot. It's not best-of-5."

in the bracket as a No. 11 seed "one of the tougher decisions we had to make." But he de-

fended putting the Bruins (20-13) in with an RPI of 48, which is 18 spots lower than Colorado

State and 14 below Temple.

"We felt they were gaining steam," Barnes said. "They did

Spieth wins at Innisbrook in a playoff

PALM HARBOR, Fla. (AP)—Some of the best short-game shots Jordan Spieth has hit in his young career have been on the final two holes on the Copperhead course at Innisbrook.

Two years ago, it paved the way for him to get his PGA Tour card as a teenager.

He came full circle Sunday by making two improbable par saves to get into a playoff, and then winning the Valspar Championship on the third extra hole by making a 30-foot birdie putt to beat Patrick Reed and Sean O'Hair.

"I would rank those definitely in the top five I've ever had given the lies and the scenario," Spieth said.

And the winning putt?

"That's just luck," he said with a smile. "Guess it was my day."

It put an end to an afternoon of back-nine charges, big birdie putts and clutch par saves, the latest chapter in a PGA Tour

season that already has featured eight playoffs.

This one was off the charts.

Reed rammed in a 30-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole to cap off a 5-under 66, and then was lounging in a chair waiting to see if anyone could catch him, and they how many would join him. O'Hair got there with a 30-foot birdie on the 16th hole and a tough par save on the 18th, making a 5-foot putt look far easier than a guy who has now gone 87 starts since his last win.

Spieth looked like he wouldn't make it to the finish line. Tied for the lead, he left his 6-iron well to the right on the par-3 17th and was hopeful of the best. He said to caddie Michael Greller, "Please be a good lie or not on a down slope."

It was a terrible lie on a down slope.

Spieth hit a flop shot that landed perfectly and rolled 6 feet by the hole, and he saved his par. On the 18th, he hit a fat shot from a fairway bun-

ker some 35 yards short, with a clump of grass behind it and the grain of the grass into the ball. Greller's advice was for Spieth to at least have a chance for par. He hit another flop to 12 feet, and the putt fell on the last turn from the left side of the cup.

"A crazy back nine," Spieth said.

Three behind with six holes to play, Spieth closed with a 2-under 69 to catch a faltering Ryan Moore and win his second PGA Tour title, both in a playoff. It was his fourth win worldwide—he now has three wins in his last eight starts around the world—to reach a career-high No. 6 in the world and already surpass \$10 million in career earnings.

The 24-year-old Reed went his final 30 holes without a bogey and made two par saves in the playoff that were as good as anything Spieth did.



From a plugged lie in the lip of the bunker on the 18th in the playoff, he blasted out to 10 feet and rolled it in like it was a 3-footer. On the next playoff hole, the 16th, he went deep over the green into grass so deep he couldn't see it, and nearly holed the shot.

He was in deep trouble on the third playoff hole, too, and hit a bunker shot to 6 feet.

"I didn't even have to hit the putt because Jordan poured it in," said Reed, who beat Spieth in a playoff for the first of his four PGA Tour wins at the Wyndham Championship in August 2013.

O'Hair hasn't won since the 2011 Canadian Open, and he had to earn back his full PGA Tour card the last two years at the Web.com Tour Finals. In contention for the first time since longer than he can remember, his swing and his nerves held up fine. O'Hair had a 12-foot birdie putt to win on the second playoff hole, and it caught the right

edge of the lip and spun away.

He played bogey-free on the back nine and shot 31 to close with a 67.

"I gave myself a chance," O'Hair said. "That's really all I can do. I played solid all day, played solid all week, and then the playoff was a ton of fun. Two young guys made me feel really old."

O'Hair is 32 with four children. He turned pro when Spieth was in the first grade. This was a big boost for O'Hair, who was never far from the lead for four days.

Henrik Stenson, in his Innisbrook debut, ran off three straight birdies and closed with a 67 to fall one shot short of the playoff.

Only two players in 2015 have had at least a share of the 54-hole lead and went on to victory on the PGA Tour. Moore did not become the third. He holed a 7-iron on the sixth hole for an eagle to take a two-shot lead, and back-to-back birdies early on the back nine stretched his lead to three shots with six to play.

Westbrook lifts Thunder to 109-100 win over Bulls



OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Russell Westbrook had 36 points, 11 rebounds and six assists as the Oklahoma City Thunder held off the Chicago Bulls 109-100 on Sunday.

Enes Kanter added 18 points and 18 rebounds and fellow center Steven Adams had 14 points and 11 rebounds for the Thunder.

Westbrook's final assist came on the game-turning play. With the Thunder up 99-95 in the final minute, he held the ball until near the end of the shot clock, then passed to Anthony Morrow, who hit a 3-pointer. Nikola Mirotic scored 27 points and Pau Gasol added 20 for Chicago.

Oklahoma City won for the 16th time in its last 18 home games.

Cavaliers 123, Magic 108

In Orlando, Florida, Kyrie Irving scored 33 points, and J.R. Smith had 25 as Cleveland rolled past Orlando.

LeBron James finished with 21 points, 13 assists and eight rebounds to help the Cavaliers win their fourth straight and sixth in seven games.

Cleveland went 18 for 35 from 3-point range. Irving was 5 for 6 from beyond the arc.

Victor Oladipo led the Magic with 25 points. Orlando has lost four straight.

Hawks 91, Lakers 86

In Los Angeles, Dennis Schroder had 24 points and 10 assists, and Al Horford scored 21 points as Atlanta beat Los Angeles.

Atlanta's Kyle Korver left with a broken nose after taking an offensive foul from Ed Davis with 8:59 left in the first half. The injury ended a streak

of 51 consecutive games with a 3-pointer by Korver, who missed both of his shots from behind the arc.

Hawks coach Mike Budenholzer rested starters Jeff Teague, DeMarre Carroll and Paul Millsap and inserted Schroder at the point, Pero Antic at small forward and former Laker Kent Bazemore at power forward. Schroder, the 17th overall pick in the 2013 draft, made his seventh start in 113 NBA games and was 7 for 16 from the field in his best game as a pro.

Atlanta (52-14) moved within a half-game of idle Golden State for the NBA's best record with 16 games left—including a showdown with the Warriors on Wednesday night at Oakland.

Reserves Carlos Boozer and Ryan Kelly each scored 13 points for the Lakers.

Rockets 100, Clippers 98

In Los Angeles, James Harden scored 34 points, and Terrence Jones added 16 points and 12 rebounds in Houston's victory over Los Angeles.

Trevor Ariza had 19 points and nine rebounds, helping Houston move within two games of idle Memphis for the Southwest Division lead.

Chris Paul scored 23 points for the Clippers, but missed a 5-foot fadeaway jumper at the buzzer. Blake Griffin had 11 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists in 40 minutes in his return to the lineup after surgery to remove a staph infection in his right elbow.

Nuggets 118, Pelicans 111, 2OT

In New Orleans, Will Barton scored 25 points, including the game-leveling 3-pointer late



Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook (0) shoots over Chicago Bulls guard E'Twaun Moore (55) and forward Mike Dunleavy (34) in the second quarter of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Sunday, March 15, 2015.

in the first overtime, as undermanned Denver beat New Orleans for its fourth straight victory.

Kenneth Faried had 20 points and 10 rebounds for Denver. Danilo Gallinari added 17 points, including a 3 that gave the Nuggets a 114-109 lead with 1:30 left in the second overtime.

Ty Lawson added 19 points and Jameer Nelson 18 for Den-

ver, which won even as coach Melvin Hunt chose to rest three regulars—Wilson Chandler, Randy Foye and Darrell Arthur—so the team could get a better look at some younger players.

Anthony Davis had 36 points, 14 rebounds, nine blocks and a career-high seven assists for New Orleans.

Trail Blazers 113, Raptors 97

In Toronto, LaMarcus Aldridge had 24 points and 10 rebounds as Portland beat Toronto for the 12th time in 13 meetings.

Damian Lillard scored 23 points, and Arron Afflalo had 14, and Nicolas Batum added 10 points and 12 assists to help the Trail Blazers open a five-game

Somehow, Heat still have a shot at the East playoffs

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

MIAMI (AP)—Here are some key members of the current Miami Heat rotation: A center who resuscitated his career in Lebanon, a forward who was playing for a bad team in China a few weeks ago, and a couple of graduates of the NBA Development League.

What a difference a year makes.

Forget a fifth straight run to the NBA Finals. These Heat will have to scrap to make the Eastern Conference playoffs, and now begin a daunting stretch starting Monday against LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers.

"We're fighting, absolutely fighting, for our playoff lives," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said.

Entering this week, Indiana (30-35) holds the No. 7 seed, with Charlotte (29-35) a half-game back in eighth. Miami (29-36) is another half-game back in ninth, a tiebreaker ahead of Boston (29-36).

Four teams, two playoff spots, one game separating them.

"I love it," Spoelstra said. "We all do. We're in a profession that we want to be in. We're playing for something."

When James left this summer, the Heat were reeling and a massive roster-rebuild was needed fast. Josh McRoberts' season-ending injury and Chris Bosh's season-ending illness both rocked the team months later. Hassan Whiteside, Michael Beasley, Tyler Johnson and Henry Walker were all added in-season to hold down spots alongside Dwyane Wade, as was Goran Dragic in a trade with Phoenix.

Somehow, Miami still has a pulse.

"All the changes, the trades, the injuries, the adversity, I think it's strengthened us," Spoelstra said. "It hasn't really produced the type of results that we want it to, but every player in that locker room right now feels the significance of these games."



Some things to watch this

week around the NBA:

BEST VERSUS BEST: Atlanta at Golden State, Wednesday night. The top seeds in the East and West, not to mention the league's only 50-win teams to date, going at it in a nationally televised matchup. Atlanta won the first meeting, 124-116 on Feb. 6.

PACERS CLIMBING: Indiana started 17-32, with losing streaks of six, seven and eight games. Look at the Pacers now. Frank Vogel won't win coach of the year, but has done another marvelous job. This week, Indiana faces Toronto, Chicago, Cleveland and Brooklyn.

MILESTONE WATCH: Only 33 players have appeared in 1,200 NBA regular-season games. That club could grow to 35 this week, with Jason Terry and Vince Carter on pace to reach that plateau in the coming days.

BLAZERS-GRIZZLIES: Portland visits Memphis on Saturday, a matchup that may help eventually decide the West's No. 2 seed. Memphis is 3-0 against the Blazers this season,

trip with their eighth victory in nine games. They improved to 3-1 since losing starter Wesley Matthews to a season-ending ruptured Achilles tendon.

DeMar DeRozan scored 22 points, and Jonas Valanciunas had 14 for Toronto. The Raptors lost for the 10th time in 12 games.

Suns 102, Knicks 89

In Phoenix, Eric Bledsoe fell a rebound short of a triple-double and Phoenix overcame a sluggish first half to beat New York.

Bledsoe finished with 21 points, 11 assists and nine rebounds. Marcus Morris added 20 points for the Suns, who were without starters Brandon Knight and Alex Len because of sprained ankles. Brandan Wright, starting in place of Len, scored a season-high 18 and matched his season best with 11 rebounds.

Andre Bargnani and Alexey Shved scored 18 points apiece for New York.

Spurs 123, Timberwolves 97

In San Antonio, San Antonio lost Manu Ginobili to a sprained right ankle in the third quarter of its victory over Minnesota.

Ginobili was injured when he went up for a one-handed rebound and landed on the side of Gorgui Dieng's left foot with 43 seconds left in the period.

He remained on the court for a couple of minutes, rocking on his side and holding his right ankle in agony. He was helped to the back by Tim Duncan and Spurs trainer Will Sevensing, hopping on his left foot and not putting his right foot on the floor.

Kawhi Leonard scored 15 points for San Antonio. The Spurs had a season-high 38 assists.

8-1 against in the last nine between the clubs.

SPURS-HAWKS: Sunday's slate is highlighted by this, when Atlanta (and former San Antonio assistant Mike Budenholzer, who has made a Spurs-esque style work for the Hawks) host the NBA champions. Potential Finals preview? Maybe.

SMOOTH JAZZ: Here's your 2016 Western Conference sleeper. Utah has won five straight and 12 of 15, holding teams to 85.5 points per game. Gordon Hayward and Derrick Favors lead the way, but watch Rudy Gobert—averaging 10.5 points and 14.5 rebounds since returning to the starting lineup.

STAT LINE OF THE WEEK

Kyrie Irving, Cleveland: Maybe the stat line of the year, maybe the game of the year. Irving had 57 points on 20-for-32 shooting, including 7 for 7 from 3-point range and 10 for 10 from the free-throw line in Cleveland's 128-125 overtime win at San Antonio. He also had five assists and four steals.



Miami Heat guard Tyler Johnson (8) is fouled by Toronto Raptors' Greivis Vasquez during second-half NBA basketball game action in Toronto, Friday, March 13, 2015.

Defaults, storm spoil Week 2 of badminton meet

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Six individuals and three pairs had walkover wins as defaults and the cancellation of Sunday’s matches spoiled the second week of competition in the Sun Palace Hotel Singles and Doubles Badminton Competition 2015 at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

Tournament director Andreau Galvez chose to postpone all matches on Sunday due to the strong winds and heavy rain brought by Tropical Storm Bavi, which battered the CNMI and Guam.

Mikiya Takahashi, Janelle Pang-ilinan, and Daniel Kim, eased their way into the next round after their respective opponents failed to show up on Friday. The same thing happened with Hancheol Yu and Jun Lee in the men’s doubles B division.

Yu and Lee also had the same results on Saturday, while the pairs of Julie Lee and Rowena Sison (women’s doubles A), and Oh Im Bog and Joongmin



Nicole Malasarte goes for a smash in her game against Christy Villaflor in the women’s singles B division of the Sun Palace Hotel Singles and Doubles Badminton Competition 2015 over the weekend at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

Lee had walkover wins. Lanie Santos, Rose Lazaro, and Loida Ito duplicated their feat in the women’s singles division. A number of matches were also played on Friday and Saturday with Ni-

cole Malasarte, and the pairs of Celso Agui and Ariel Mariano, and Edwin Montoya and Joel Ortega scoring wins in under 30 minutes.

Malasarte only needed 21 minutes in dispatching Christy Villaflor, 21-9, 21-10, while Agui and Mariano completed a 26-minute victory over Jojo Savelano and Alvin Alvarez, 21-6, 21-19.

Agui and Mariano, however, dropped a 21-17, 21-14 setback against Montoya and Ortega in 25 minutes in an all-Taga Badminton Club match.

Vilma Reyes also had an easy outing against Santos, 21-14, 21-11; Havika Farro outlasted Merlie Tolentino, 16-21, 21-11, 21-17; while Galvez scored consecutive wins over Mcoi Aguda, 21-13, 21-17, and Glen Buultjens, 21-13, 21-16.

Lee and Sison remained undefeated in the women’s doubles B class, highlighting their march on top of the field with a come-from-behind 19-21, 21-19, 21-20 win over Farro and Malasarte.

Lee and Sison—trailing twice in the third set, 11-6, and the last 19-15—scored six straight points as Farro and Malasarte ran into a spate of errors to complete their amazing comeback.

Vikings acquire wide receiver Mike Wallace from Dolphins



Minnesota acquired wide receiver Mike Wallace from the Miami Dolphins on Friday, another attempt by the Vikings to establish a reliable deep threat and a move by the Dolphins for salary cap relief.

The Vikings will send a fifth-round draft pick to the Dolphins for their seventh-round selection in the swap that was finalized on Friday night.

The trade came two years after the Vikings tried to sign Wallace, who was benched by Dolphins coach Joe Philbin in the second half of their final game last season after an argument between the 28-year-old and the coaching staff. Wallace led the Dolphins with 10 touchdowns in 2014, his second season with the team, but he rarely clicked with quarterback Ryan Tannehill on long passes and was unhappy he wasn’t targeted more.

Wallace was Miami’s highest-paid player until the signing of star defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh to a \$114 million, six-year contract. That made the Dolphins eager to create more space under their salary cap, and with Wallace due \$9.9 million this season he became an obvious target. Wallace has three years left on the deal he signed with the Dolphins that’s worth as much as \$60 million with \$30 million guaranteed.

“We thank Mike for his contributions to the team over the last two seasons,” Dolphins general manager Dennis Hickey said in a statement distributed by the team. “We wish him the best in the Minnesota.” (AP)

TSUNAMI

From Page 28

the Tsunami Saipan swimmer posted 1:02.88—the second best time in the qualifying races.

Kaito’s other medal came from the 50m breaststroke event and though the results provided to *Saipan Tribune* did not indicate his time in the finals, the Marianas High School student improved his ranking in the medal round. He was only at third place in the qualifying swim after tallying 31.48 seconds.

Kaito also joined the 50m freestyle race and missed the finals after placing 13th out of 49 participants and submitting 26.83 seconds.

Besides Kaito, Ashley Dangol and Miku Tammy were the other Tsunami Saipan swimmers who advanced to the finals of their respective events.

The 8-year-old Dangol marched into the medal round of the 50m butterfly race and finished sixth in the finals with her 37.86 seconds, which was better than her heat time of 38.64 seconds. Tammy joined the same event for the 11 to 12 age group and qualified for the finals where she tallied 31.83 seconds and matched Dangol’s ranking. In the preliminary, Tammy recorded 31.84 seconds to place seventh.

Six other Tsunami Saipan swimmers participated in the Tokyo Junior Sprint. The list includes Hans Xu, Anthony Camacho-Deleon Guerrero, Jun Tenorio, Nanakawa Watanabe, Sophia Gauran, and Kaito’s younger brother Ryuto.

Xu raced in the boys U8’s 50m freestyle (37.75 seconds) and placed 29th out of the 44 swimmers. He was then ranked 25th out of 84 in the 100m IM (1:34.94) and 15th out of 78 in the 50m backstroke (42.24 seconds).

Camacho-Deleon Guerrero was at No. 26 out of 84 swimmers in the 100m IM (1:27.29) and at No. 25 out of 120 in the 50m butterfly (37.12 seconds), while Tenorio finished 94th out of 119 participants in the 50m freestyle (35.74 seconds) and 28th out of 63 in the 100m IM (1:29.88).

Kaito’s sibling Ryuto joined three races, placing 12th among 207 swimmers in the 50m freestyle (29.95 seconds), seventh in the non-competitive 100m IM (1:16.19), and 21st out of 94 in the 50m butterfly (34.38 seconds).

In the girls division, Watanabe raced in three events, ranking 74th in the 50m freestyle (37.86 seconds), 30th in the 100m IM (1:32.03), and 17th in the 50m breaststroke (45.45 seconds). Dangol had two other events, coming in at 13th in the 50m freestyle (37.34 seconds) and 10th in the 100m IM (1:32.12). Tammy also competed in the 50m freestyle

(30.55 seconds) and 100m IM (1:16.86) and finished 29th and 24th, respectively. Gauran was at No. 38 in the 50m freestyle (31.51 seconds), No. 27th in the 100m IM (1:20.85), and 55th in the 50m breaststroke (42.97 seconds).

Hiro Kimura coached the squad and was assisted by former Tsunami Saipan mainstays and his sons Kensuke and Shin.

Meanwhile, Tsunami Saipan would like to thank the following for supporting the club’s participation to the Tokyo Junior Sprint: Reps. Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), B.J. Attao (Ind-Saipan), Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan), Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan), Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Vinnie Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Joseph “Lee Pan” Guerrero (R-Saipan), Francis Taimanao (Ind-Saipan), and Ralph Demapan (R-Saipan) and Sens. Justo Quitugua (Ind-Saipan) and Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan).

LEE

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partnered in winning the age group’s doubles event, prevailing in back-to-back matches last Saturday at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

The eventual champions were first pitted against the duo of Anthony Gregoire and Richard Steele and won the morning match, 6-1, 6-4. Lee and Rai then returned to the PIC court in the afternoon and also took only two sets to beat Daniel Kang and Ji Min Woo, 7-5, 6-4, to get the division championship. Kang and Woo settled for the runner-up honors as they topped Gregoire and Steele last Friday, 6-3, 6-2.

Three other junior doubles and two adults events were played in the final week of the tournament that was short-

ened as organizers were pressed to finish the competition last Saturday due to Tropical Storm Bavi.

In the girls U12 doubles, siblings Coume and Conatsu Kaga had their hands full, but still managed to notch the division crown following a 6-4, 6-1 win over Erika Tuttle and Maria Gregoire last Saturday.

The Kaga sisters played twice the same day. They started their busy schedule with a 7am match against Tiara Imai and Susan Sablan and they won, 6-2, 6-3. The Kagas then went from the tennis court to the swimming pool to compete in the Saipan Swim Club International Invitational Meet before returning to the former for their title duel against Gregoire and Tuttle.

Tuttle and Gregoire also had two matches last Saturday, sweeping Erie Kate Ortega and Soleil Lamar in the

morning, 6-4, 6-3, to arrange a finals duel with the Kaga siblings. The pair of Maaya Sato and Hana Ojima was the fifth team to join the division and bowed out early after losing to Imai and Sablan last Friday, 2-6, 3-6.

In the boys U16 junior doubles, only three teams participated with the duo of Vincent Tudela and Steven Goodwin winning the championship. They downed Ken Song and A.J. Hudkins last Friday, 6-3, 7-5, and that seemed to be the deciding match, as the eventual champions earned a free win against Woon Sun Cho and Steve Lee last Saturday via default. Song and Hudkins also prevailed via default against Co and Lee to place second in the division.

In the girls U16 doubles finals, Malika Miyawaki and Julia Ishikawa defeated Ami Tsukagoshi and Mimi Sakano, 6-3, 6-4.

He then finished third in the men’s No-Gi expert cruiserweight class behind champion Kyle Boehm and runner-up Curt Howard, who are Arizona Combat Sports teammates.

NAGA was formed in 1995 and organizes submission, grappling, and Brazilian Jiu-jitsu tournaments in North America and Europe. They hold the largest submission and grappling

tournaments in the world where more than 200,000 participants join.

Manglona, in the Arizona International Open, settled for the silver medal in the Over-18 purple adult heavy-weight (208 lbs) division won by GD Jiu-jitsu Academy’s Adrian Nez.

“It was another great weekend of competition. Two consecutive weekends of great competition and I can’t

complain with the merchandise I pulled,” said Manglona, who is this year’s United Grappling Federation California State Grappling champion.

“Thank you God for keeping me healthy. Thank you to my family and friends, whether near or far, for all the love and support, and thank you to my coaches and team for all the help,” he added.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	39	27	.591	—
Boston	29	36	.446	9½
Brooklyn	26	38	.406	12
Philadelphia	15	51	.227	24
New York	13	53	.197	26
Southeast Division				
x-Atlanta	52	14	.788	—
Washington	38	28	.576	14
Charlotte	29	35	.453	22
Miami	29	36	.446	22½
Orlando	21	47	.309	32
Central Division				
Cleveland	43	25	.632	—
Chicago	40	28	.588	3
Milwaukee	34	32	.515	8
Indiana	30	35	.462	11½
Detroit	23	43	.348	19
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
Memphis	46	20	.697	—
Houston	44	22	.667	2
San Antonio	41	24	.631	4½
Dallas	42	25	.627	4½
New Orleans	36	30	.545	10
Northwest Division				
Portland	44	20	.688	—
Oklahoma City	37	29	.561	8
Utah	29	36	.446	15½
Denver	26	41	.388	19½
Minnesota	14	51	.215	30½
Pacific Division				
Golden State	52	13	.800	—
L.A. Clippers	42	25	.627	11
Phoenix	35	33	.515	18½
Sacramento	22	43	.338	30
L.A. Lakers	17	48	.262	35
x-clinched playoff spot				
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				

MANGLONA

From Page 28

The Tinian native, fighting out of Team John Crouch Brazilian Jiu-jitsu, topped the men’s Gi purple belt cruiser-weight division in the NAGA event beating Ralph Gracie’s Rich O’Toole via chokehold.

SSFM/New Garapan Market nears sweep

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

SSFM/New Garapan Market moved one win away from sweeping the elimination round of the 2015 DLX Invitational Basketball League after pounding Eye Sees, 75-55, last Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

SSFM/New Garapan Market now has a 6-0 record and will go for the sweep tomorrow when it faces the streaking Mawati. The 20-point victory over Eye Sees also gave SSFM/New Garapan Market the No. 1 spot in the eight-team field and the automatic semis berth.

Four players scored in double figures in SSFM/New Garapan Market's rout of Eye Sees with prized guard Sean Rabasto leading the squad with his 17 points. John Paul Espinosa added 15, while Djay Ong and Mike Espinosa chipped in 13 each.

Rabasto, John Paul Espinosa, and Ong combined for 12 of SSFM/New Garapan Market's 23 points in the third period to turn a 32-23 halftime lead to a double-digit spread, 55-37, entering the final canto. The trio kept going in the fourth, while Mike Espinosa also hit a couple of baskets in the final frame to finish off Eye Sees.

Eye Sees fell to a 4-2 record for a tie for third place with

Mawati and the former lost its chance for the outright semis seat. The two automatic semis spots will go to the Top 2 finishers in the elimination, while the next four will battle for the last two semis tickets and the bottom two will be ousted.

Jake's Catering is likely to get the second semis berth, as it improved to a 5-1 record following an 85-82 victory against Maplas (1-5) last Friday.

Jake's Catering withstood Maplas' fourth-quarter rally to pull off the 3-point win. Jake's Catering led by as much as 12 in the third period, 68-56, but was threatened in the fourth with Edmark Mendoza anchoring Maplas' fightback.

Fortunately, Jake's Catering made crucial free throws in the homestretch to halt Maplas' rally. Jake's Catering scored its last 8 points all from the stripe. Feric Aguon knocked in four of those eight charities.

Meanwhile, in the other game last Saturday, Mawati notched its fourth straight victory after downing Island Manpower, 63-60.

Ian Larot powered Mawati to the close victory, scoring the team's last 4 points, including a pair of free throws. He finished with 10 markers and all of them came in the final canto as Mawati completed a come-from-behind win after facing a 25-38 deficit at the break.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

SSFM/New Garapan Market's Andrew Palino, left, challenges the defense of Team Compound's Kelvin Fitial during last week's game in the DLX caging at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court. SSFM/New Garapan Market is still undefeated this season following a 75-55 rout of Eye Sees last weekend.

Webb Gontar also contributed in the fourth-quarter recovery, drilling 7 of his 9 markers in the fourth, while Arjay Nonato

added 5.

Mawati started climbing back in the third when it held Island Manpower to 8 points and moved within 5, 41-46, with one full quarter to go. Only Syl Teregeyo scored more than one basket in Island Manpower's third-quarter meltdown and failed to regroup in the final canto to finish the elimination with a 3-4 slate for fifth place.

FRIDAY

Jake's Catering 85 – Capalad 19, Aguon 17, Rejano 15, Dayrit 8, Ron 6, Montano 6, Rivera 5, Gunnacao 4.

Maplas 82 – Mendoza 21, Pangelinan 16, Odicta 11, R. Usi 10, M. Usi 8, Aniciete 7, Salazar 2, Yalung 2, Claveria 2.

Scoring by quarters: 13-16, 38-36, 68-56, 85-82.

SATURDAY First Game

Mawati 63 – Nonato 15, Larot 10, Gontar 9, Demapan 6, Ibanez 5, Enriquez 4, Rejano 4, Rivera 4, Reyes 2.

Island Manpower 60 – Olopai 15, Teregeyo 13, Norita 11, Rangamar 7, Tobias 6, Lizama 3, Saplam 2, Palacios 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-18, 25-38, 41-46, 63-60.

Second Game

SSFM/New Garapan 75 – Rabasto 17, J. Espinosa 15, Ong 13, M. Espinosa 13, Palino 8, Bisana 4, Echavez 2.

Eye Sees 55 – Fernando 20, Director 12, Quemado 8, David 5, Muleta 4, Lim 2, Ramatan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-7, 32-23, 55-37, 75-55.

Saralu's batting gets Brewers back on track

By **JON PEREZ**
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Nokki Saralu finally found his swing to vault himself on top of the batting leaders and in the process kept the defending champion GSM Brewers afloat in the Saipan Baseball League's 2015 season.

Last month, the Brewers third baseman was just batting .385 to tie three other players from eighth to 11th places.

Now, the former Saipan Little League standout and many time CNMI All-Star member logged a batting average of .567 as the SBL enters its final month of elimination round matches.

Saralu, who almost a year ago also jumped on top of the SBL's batting leaders, went 7-for-10 in the Brewers' last two games that included an 11-inning victory over the Saipan Stevedore Yankees, 15-14, last March 11.

He led the reigning titlist's offense in that win over the Yankees going 4-for-5 with three runs, three doubles, and two RBIs.

Saralu also had a 3-for-5 plate appearance, all singles, in the Brew crew's 8-5 loss to the Falcons on March 4. He also had two RBI singles in that match.

In February, he went 6-for-8 in the Brewers' two wins—which was part of the Mark Flores-managed squad's five-game first-round, sweep. He batted 4-for-4 in the Brewers' 10-4 triumph over the Falcons where he had two RBI singles, a double, and a run.

The Yankees' Gary Cruz and Davie Matagolai of the Jets are currently tied at second place with .500 averages followed by the Fielders' Jimmy Brel's .462 mark, while the Brewers' Jesse Brel and

John Tudela of the Yankees are at joint fifth to sixth with .458.

Peter Tomokane (Yankees, .423); Verlanee Secharmidal (Fielders, .412); Ricardo Dela Cruz (North Starz, .400); Tyron Omar (Brewers, .370); Robert Bansil (Yankees, .360); Keola Camacho (Jets, .357); Jerome Delos Santos (Yankees, .351); Jun Rabauliman (Brewers, .344); and Cedric Ada (Fielders, .341) complete the batting leaders' list.

Saralu is also leading the league in doubles with six followed by the Yankees' Brian Camacho and Ada with five and four apiece.

Delos Santos is the top run scorer with 17 while Ben Jones Jr. of the Yankees, Dela Cruz, and Secharmidal are tied with 14 each. Cruz has a league-best 19 RBIs, while teammate Camacho had 17 and Secharmidal logged 12.

Secharmidal also had four triples while Dela Cruz had three and five other players are tied with two each.

Five home runs have been recorded this season with the Falcons' A.J. Lizama blasting two, while teammate Ned Norita, Jones, and the Fielders' Brel belting one each.

Brewers ace pitcher Vince Cepeda remains on top in the ERA and strikeout departments with a league-leading 1.11 and 54, respectively.

Lizama (Falcons, 1.38); Joe Palacios (Fielders, 1.59); Peter Lieto (Falcons, 1.89); Dave Jones (Falcons, 2.25); Peter Tenorio (Yankees, 2.32); Jonathan Tenorio (North Starz, 3.30); Kevin Kapileo (3.86); Richard Dela Cruz (North Starz, 4.20); and Mike Muna (Jets, 4.44) complete the Top 10 in ERA.

The Falcons' Lieto and Muna of the Jets also recorded 34 and 20 strikeouts, respectively.

Route33 foils Wild Bill's bid to pull away

By **JON PEREZ**
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Route33 Alamo Car Rental played the spoiler's role last week, scoring a 12-3 win over Wild Bill's to prevent their opponents from pulling away in the Budweiser-Saipan Billiards Association Open 8-Ball Thursday League.

Wild Bill's loss, coupled by Abyss' 10-5 decision against the

Barcode Breakers, pushed the Titans on top with a 52-38 record, while the former dropped to a tie with Route33 at second place in the 10-team field.

Abyss Rack 'N' Roll came in fourth with a 49-41 mark followed by the even 45-45 slates of Jonny's Team SCS and the Jokers Homeboyz, while the Smoke Pub Magic 8 Ball

dropped to seventh (44-46).

The Jokers Wonderpool Aces (42-48), Barcode Hobbes Deadshot (40-50), and the Breakers (33-57) complete the standings.

Manny Mariano starred for Route33, winning three of their team's seven matches to finally silence Wild Bill's.

Oliver Gragasins, Nong Det-

don, and Victor Formales won for Wild Bill's where they defeated Boyet Sequico, Ronel Sunga, and Richard Santos, respectively.

The Homeboyz and the Magic 8 Ball needed victories in the Partner's 8-Ball events in escaping with 8-7 victories over the Rack 'N' Roll and the Wonderpool Aces, while Team SCS pulled off a 9-6 decision against the Deadshot.

The Breakers take on the Homeboyz, the Wonderpool Aces host the Titans, Route33 will visit the Rack 'N' Roll, Team SCS battle the Magic 8 Ball, while Wild Bill's clash with the Deadshot in Thursday's matches.

In the Tuesday League, the Smoke Pub Armatech Hustlers pulled off an 11-4 win over sister team Destroyers for a 53-37 card followed by the 51-39 record of the Jokers IT&E Voyagers, a 10-5 winner over the Abyss Homeboyz II.

The Jokers Str8 Shooters tripped the Abyss Crazy 8, 9-6, in the other Tuesday League match.

The Str8 Shooters are in third with a 48-42 mark followed by the Crazy 8 (41-49), Destroyers (39-51), and the Homeboyz (38-52).

The Voyagers face the Voyagers today, while the Destroyers meet Homeboyz II and the Crazy 8 collide with the Str8 Shooters in the other featured matches.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ray Matsunaga of the Abyss Titans prepares to make a shot in their game against the Barcode Breakers in the Budweiser-Saipan Billiards Association Thursday Open 8-Ball League.



Kentucky leads the way with top spot in March Madness

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SSFM/New Garapan Market nears sweep

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2015

Tsunami Saipan swimmers deliver

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Three Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan members had notable performances in the Tokyo Junior Sprint 2015 held early this month at the Tatsumi International Swimming Arena in Japan.



Tournament returnee Kaito Yanai was among the three who stood out in the March 7 and 8 competition, appearing in the finals of two races and winning silver and bronze medals in the 50m breaststroke and 100m individual medley, respectively.

The 15-year-old swimmer got his first medal right in the opening day of the annual tournament after placing third in the 100m IM where he timed in at 1:02.19. Kaito's time in the finals was also faster than his preliminary, as

See TSUNAMI on Page 26

Members and coaches of Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan pose for a group photo during a break in the Tokyo Junior Sprint 2015 held early this month at the Tatsumi International Swimming Arena in Japan.

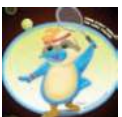
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Aditya Rai, right, makes a baseline return, while teammate Sean Lee also gets ready for a shot during the second set of their boys U12 doubles title match against Daniel Kang and Ji Min Woo last Saturday in the 15th PIC Tennis Championships at the Pacific Islands Club tennis courts.

Lee, Rai clinch doubles crown



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rivals-turned-teammates Aditya

Rai and Sean Lee swept their games in last weekend's 15th PIC Tennis Championships to bag the boys U12 doubles championship.

Rai and Lee, who collided in the semifinals of the boys U12 singles of the same tournament, this time

See LEE on Page 26

Manglona rules NAGA event in Phoenix

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Keli "Maga'lahi" Manglona continues to reap awards in the U.S. mainland after recently competing in two consecutive grappling and Jiu-jitsu events.



Manglona scooped up gold and bronze medals in the tough 2015 North American Grappling Association Phoenix Grappling Championship held on Feb. 28 and March 1 in Phoenix, Arizona.

The Airman Warrior of Glendale's Luke Air Force Base in a week before that placed second in another equally tough tournament, the 10th Arizona International Open of Brazilian Jiu-jitsu.

See MANGLONA on Page 26

Keli "Maga'lahi" Manglona continues to put the CNMI on the mixed martial arts map while competing in various jiu-jitsu tournaments in the mainland.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

